MINUTES.

REFORMED

Presbyterian Synod of Ireland.

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OF

THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Reformed Presbyterian Synod

OF IRELAND,

AT ITS

ANNUAL MEETING IN BELFAST,

JUNE, 1873.

Londonderry:
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1873.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

REFORMED

Presbyterian Synod in Ireland.

SESSION I.

BELFAST, MONDAY, 16TH JUNE, 1873, SEVEN O'CLOCK, P.M.

Constitution.

THE SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND met; and, after a discourse from 1 Thess. ii. 19, 20—"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For ye are our glory and joy"—was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

The following is the Roll of Members:—

Roll.

THE REV. JAMES DICK, D.D., MODERATOR.

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
John Hart.....	Samuel M'Millen*....	Ballylaggan.
.....	.....	Cloughmills.
Jas. D. Houston, B.A.	William Ramsay*....	Coleraine.
James Brown.....	Robert Clarke*.....	Dervock & Ballymoney
Isaac Thompson, M.A.	William Wilson.....	Drimbolg.
.....	William Kennedy....	Garvagh.
James Dick, D.D.....	Samuel Kirk—*Alternate*, Samuel Clugston	Kellswater.
William Toland*.....	Robert Kerr*.....	Kilraughts.
Torrens Boyd†.....	Abraham M'Candless*	Ringrash.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Alexander Savage....	David Qua.....	Ballenon.
Gawin Douglas.....	William Carson*	Ballybay.
Hutchinson M'Fadden	.....	Ballylane.
.....	John W. Hawthorne*	Dromore.
.....	Thomas Smyth*.....	Dublin,
George Lillie†	.....	Fairview.
William S. Ferguson*	.....	Grange.
.....	.....	Lisdonnan.
Joseph F. Horst.....	Joseph Murray.....	Loughbrickland.
Alexander M. S. Lyons	Isaac Barr*.....	Newry.
Thomas Hart*	James S. Moffet.....	Rathfriland.

Roll.

EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Thomas Dick.....	Thomas Galway—*Alt.*, W. J. Galway*.....	Bailliesmills.
William Russell.....	Hugh Blair*	Ballyclare.
Josias A. Chancellor .	John Stewart.....	Belfast.
.....	John Hewitt*.....	Killinchy.
Thos. Houston, D.D...	William Reid.....	Knockbracken.
James R. Moody.....	.....	Larne.
.....	.....	Liverpool.
Robert Allen.....	James Young*.....	Newtownards.

WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONNREGATIONS.
Charles K. Toland.....	James Gibson	Bready.
John W. Mackeown..	William Smyth.....	Convoy.
Jas. P. Sweeney, A.M.	William Steele.....	Faughan.
Robert Nevin.....	.....	Londonderry.
.....	Thomas M'Farlane...	Mulvin.
Thomas Cleland, B.A.	David Hopkins*.....	Newtownlimavady.
R. A. M'Farlane, B.D.	James Taylor.....	Stranorlar.

N.B.—The Rev. A. M. Moore, of Geelong, Australia, and the Rev. Dr. Martin, Missionary in Syria, are regarded as members of the Eastern Presbytery.

I. The Rev. Torrens Boyd was intrcduced by the Rev. J. D. Houston, as having been installed at Ringrash since last meeting of Synod, and his name was inserted in the Roll.

Mr. Mackeown chosen Moderator.

II. Dr. Dick proposed that the Rev. J. W. Mackeown should be appointed Moderator for the ensuing year. This was seconded by the Rev. A. Savage, and passed unanimously. Mr. Mackeown accordingly took the chair, and briefly addressed the court.

Hours of Meeting.

III. It was arranged that the hours of meeting should be from ten in the morning til- three in the afternoon, and from seven in the evening till ten.

Committee of Bills.

IV. A Committee of Bills was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Douglas, Brown, J. D. Houston, Russell, and the Clerk, with instructions to prepare an order of business. To meet to-morrow morning at 9.30.

V. Dr. Houston, Rev. J. Brown, and Mr. Samuel Kirk were appointed a Committee for inspecting Records of Presbyteries. To report at a future sederunt.

VI. It was agreed that there should be devotional exercises in the evening as well as in the morning—the time in both cases to be limited to half an hour.

Adjourned with prayer.

* Not present when the court was constituted.
† Absent from all the Sessions.
‡ Installed since last meeting of Synod.

SESSION II.

Tuesday, 17th June, Ten o'clock a.m.

Synod met, and resumed with prayer, Rev. T. Boyd conducting devotional exercises.

The following members, not present yesterday evening, appeared and took seats:—Rev. W. S. Ferguson; Rev. Thomas Hart; Mr. Robert Kerr, Elder from Kilraughts; Mr. John W. Hawthorne, Elder from Dromore; Mr. Thomas Galway, Elder from Bailliesmills; Mr. Hugh Blair, Elder from Ballyclare; Mr. John Hewitt, Elder from Killinchy; Mr. James Young, Elder from Newtownards; Mr. William Carson, Elder from Ballybay; Mr. Samuel M'Millen, Elder from Ballylaggan; Mr. William Ramsay, Elder from Coleraine; Mr. Isaac Barr, Elder from Newry; Mr. David Hopkins, Elder from Newtownlimavady; Mr. Abraham M'Candless, Elder from Ringrash.

VII. The Committee of Bills submitted an order of business, which, with some modification, was accepted.

VIII. The next meeting of Synod was appointed to be held in Londonderry on the third Monday of June, 1874, at seven o'clock p.m. **Next Meeting of Synod.**

IX. The Rev. C. K. Toland having renewed his motion of last year (see min. xxiv., 1872) respecting the Aged Ministers' Fund—after some discussion, it was agreed to take no further action in the matter for the present, but that a Committee be appointed to mature a plan by which a Fund may be originated for the support of widows of ministers of the Church, and at the same time to suggest how best to increase the Aged Ministers' Fund—to report to Synod at next meeting. **Committee on Widows' and Aged Ministers' Fund.**

The Committee appointed in pursuance of this resolution consists of Dr. Dick (*Convener*), Rev. C. K. Toland, Rev. J. A. Chancellor, Mr. Thomas Galway, and Mr. William Reid.

X. The Editor of the Periodical reported that the circulation was maintained, and that the pecuniary support afforded to it continued to be on the whole good. He was anxious to have the articles more numerous and shorter than they had hitherto been, and expressed a strong desire that members of Synod should, from time to time, furnish to him short articles on practical subjects, so as to make the Periodical more generally interesting and conducive to edification. **Report on Periodical.**

On motion of Dr. Houston, the following resolution was passed, and ordered to be recorded—

"Synod, having heard the Report of the Editor of *The Covenanter*, hereby convey to him their cordial thanks, and, at the same time, they express their gratitude to God for the favour which He has

shown to His servant in the advocacy and promotion of important truth. The Synod renew their pledge to him of all needed support in conducting and circulating the Magazine."

Trustees' Report. XI. Mr. Chancellor submitted the Report of Synod's Trustees respecting the funds under their management. The Report was received with satisfaction.

Bequest of Mr. Scott. XII. The Clerk of Synod explained respecting a Bequest of the late Mr. John Scott, of Tonduff, near Londonderry, to the Missions of the Church. This had been partly paid to the Clerk, and the remainder was expected to be paid very soon, when the whole would be handed over to Synod's Treasurer.

The Clerk was instructed, when the full payment is made, to convey the thanks of Synod to Mr. Scott's executors for their kind attention to the interests of the Church in this matter.

The appropriation of the Bequest was deferred, and it was ordered to be invested, for the present.

XIII. It had been arranged by the Commission that there should be a preliminary reading of the Home Mission Report, inasmuch as there were a series of resolutions appended to it which it was deemed expedient the Synod should have some time to weigh well. The Report was accordingly read by Mr. Chancellor, and a Committee was appointed to consider the Resolutions and report respecting them to-morrow evening. This Committee consisted of Dr. Dick (*Convener*), Rev. J. D. Houston, Rev. W. Russell, Rev. C. K. Toland, with Messrs. T. Galway and W. Reid.

Tracts on Family Religion, &c. XIV. The Committee appointed last year for the publication of Tracts on Family Religion, &c., reported that these Tracts had been prepared as contemplated, and were now ready for distribution.

The following motion, proposed by Mr. M'Fadden, and seconded by Mr. Brown, was passed unanimously:—

"The Committee appointed at last meeting of Synod to prepare Papers on Family Religion, Fellowship Meetings, the Psalmody of the Church, and Instrumental Music in Divine Worship, have executed their task to the entire satisfaction of this Synod. These Papers are now published in one pamphlet, at the lowest possible price, and Sessions are enjoined to circulate this admirable pamphlet as extensively as possible in their respective congregations and neighbourhoods."

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION III.

Tuesday, 17th June, Seven o'clock p.m.

Synod met, and resumed with prayer, Rev. R. Allen conducting devotional exercises.

Mr. Robert Clarke, Elder from Dervock and Ballymoney, appeared and took his seat.

XV. Dr. Houston read the Report of the Foreign and Jewish Mission. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Chancellor, seconded by Mr. Douglas, and passed, *nem. diss.* The following is the Report:—

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN AND JEWISH MISSION FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 16, 1873. **Report of For. and Jew. Mis.**

The past year in the history of our Foreign Mission in Syria has been marked by events of a peculiarly trying nature, and yet by dispensations of special goodness and mercy. In the conclusion of the last Annual Report, mention was made of increased attendance on Public Worship and the Prayer Meeting, in connexion with the mission at Latakia. The Boarding Schools, in which pupils are taught and supported at the expense of the mission, were well attended, and there were, besides, several villages in which a number of *Ansariyeh* children were taught, at no other expense to the funds of the mission than a small salary paid to the teacher. While thus all connected with the working of the mission in Syria was peaceful and prosperous and the prospect appeared o be opening of enlargement and increase, it pleased the adorable Head of the Church to try the faith and patience of His servants by a number of afflictive events.

Death of Mr. Galbraith

Towards the end of April last year, the Rev. Mr. Galbraith, who, with his wife, had come from America to reinforce the mission—arriving in December preceding—was taken ill with brain fever. This proved tedious and severe. When he seemed to be recovering, early in the month of June, he suffered a relapse; and, having been removed to Beyrout, in the hope that change of air and scene might prove beneficial, he died in that town on the 21st of June—Dr. Martin, who had accompanied him from Latakia, being present. He likewise received all professional attention and Christian kindness from the medical professors and Protestant missionaries residing in Beyrout. Mr. Galbraith, who was only about 27 years of age at his death, was a devoted pastor, greatly beloved by his flock in America, and, as a missionary, he was distinguished for sound judgment, superior scholarship, and much earnestness of character. His removal, before he had fully entered upon the labours to which he had devoted his life, though gain to himself, was felt to be a severe loss to the mission in Syria, as well as a heavy trial to the American Church that had commissioned him to the work. His wife and infant child, born a few days after her father's death, returned to America shortly afterwards, accompanied by Dr.

Metheny and his family, and by Miss Crawford, the energetic teacher of the Female Mission School—the impaired state of their health rendering a temporary withdrawal from the field of exhausting labour indispensably needful.

Dr. Martin. It is matter of devout thankfulness that a suitable provision was made for carrying forward the work of the mission, notwithstanding the diminution in the number of labourers. Our esteemed brother, Dr. Martin, who has been graciously sustained in health and vigour since his arrival in Syria, proved an invaluable help to the American brethren in their time of trial. In all their communications they uniformly speak of him in terms of the highest commendation. Mr. Beattie says, in one of his letters—"Dr. Martin is a noble man, a fine acquisition to our mission, a very genial companion, a good scholar, and zealous in the discharge of his duty. He promises to be a good missionary." Since Dr. Metheny's departure to America the whole medical work of the mission has fallen upon Dr. Martin, and it must be regarded as a singularly gracious providence that one qualified to conduct it was on the spot at the time, when otherwise the suspension of the work must have proved detrimental to the mission. Besides attending the medical practice in Latakia and the neighbourhood, Dr. Martin has undertaken journeys to several other places in the exercise of his profession. His friendly reception and success cannot but prove beneficial for the advancement of the mission.

Miss Dodds. Miss Dodds, eldest daughter of the late Dr. Dodds, who came out with Mr. and Mrs. Galbraith, took the place of Miss Crawford in the Female Seminary. She has displayed singular aptitude for acquiring the knowledge of the Arabic language, she speedily gained the confidence and affection of the pupils committed to her care, and she has wrought energetically for their benefit. Together with her imparting to them daily Scriptural instruction, she teaches them various parts of domestic industry, of which they were formerly utterly ignorant, and which must hereafter be to them of invaluable advantage. In regard to the Sabbath-school, she writes:—

Sabbath-school. "We opened a Sabbath-school a month ago, and have six classes, taught by four teachers, Mr. B. and Lizzie. I have a very interesting class, consisting of the town girls and the four Fellahin girls who are farthest advanced. They read in the Testament, and commit to memory portions of Scripture. I have to write out all my questions on the lesson through the week, and get them translated into Arabic. We are now at the 17th verse of the fifth chapter of Matthew. I have picked up a good deal of Arabic. The teachers, the girls, and I understand one another very well."

Before leaving New York for Syria a liberal-minded member of the Brooklyn congregation presented to Miss Dodds a sewing machine. The following statements in one of her letters show that this machine has become a valuable agency in the mission:—

Teaching Domestic Industry.

"We had all the children to clothe. I have made on my machine 44 dresses, 43 suits of underclothing, and 22 full suits for the boys. I almost think I am not the same girl who wished last fall to stay at home till Spring, to learn to sew and do fancy work. There is nothing like the inevitable necessity. When at home I never cut out a garment, and did very little sewing. I had never sewed any on the machine. As for fancy work, we have had no time for it yet. My girls and I are very happy together. Some evenings, the twenty little ones gather around me to say their prayers before going to bed. The large boys are very willing to help with their work, and offered to do the baking, as the girls have so much other work to do. We accepted the offer, and the theological students make the bread. They have also asked to be taught to sew and knit, and were much delighted when allowed to hem handkerchiefs for themselves."

Arrival of Mr. Easson.

Immediately on receiving intelligence of the death of Mr. Galbraith, the Mission Board of the American Synod took measures for sending out another missionary to Syria. Their choice fell upon *Mr. Henry Easson*, an advanced theological student, and he, having been ordained by the Presbytery of Pittsburg, sailed with his wife and child for Syria in the end of November, and reached Latakia early in January last. Mr. E., since his arrival in the mission field, has been prosecuting with diligence and success the study of the Arabic, attending to the work of instruction in the schools, and gaining acquaintance with the work of the mission and habits of the people among whom he is to labour.

Progress.

Mr. Beattie, the senior missionary, in his various communications, writes in encouraging terms concerning the progress of the work at Latakia and Bahamra. At the former the attendance upon public worship is considerable, and the audiences, at times, manifest solemnity under the preaching of the Gospel. The number of pupils in the boarding schools in Latakia and Bahamra lately amounted to *seventy-six*—25 of these are girls, and the others boys. This is nearly double the number that attended any previous year. Even this number could be readily increased to at least *one hundred*, if the mission was supplied with funds to meet the additional expense. In a recent communication from Mr. Easson we have an account of the difficulties that are to be encountered in obtaining pupils for the boarding schools, and of the advantage of collecting and training them therein:—

Difficulties of the Schools.

"It is a remarkable fact that we have never been able to secure a *Fellahin* for either the school in Latakia or Bahamra, without offering to board or clothe the child free of expense to the parent. After we

Difficulties of the Schools. have had them for a year or two, and they are almost within the fold of the Good Shepherd, we frequently have not only to board and clothe them, but have also to pay the parent money, in order to be permitted to keep the child in school, especially if it be a girl, for they think a girl is not worth educating, and hence, as soon as she she is able to do any work, they want her at home. Sometimes we adopt the following plan:—If the man is very poor, we offer to lend him a certain sum of money, and take his girl or girls for security, and as soon as he is able to pay back the money we give him the girls. We have two girls now in school as security from the father for 200 piasters, or about 8 dollars, and we are likely to have them for some time to come, for this man could not raise half the sum if it was to save his own life. So, you see, we must keep a boarding school, or, rather, schools, in order to do anything here in our Master's work."

It is deserving of special remark that of the young persons, natives of Syria, who have been admitted to the fellowship of the Church—several of whom have given evidence of true conversion, and some have died in faith—almost all have been trained in the boarding schools of the mission. It is

Work extending. peculiarly gratifying to notice how the good work is extending. Invitations have been addressed to the missionaries to open schools in some villages to the north of Latakia. Two, one Greek and the other Armenian, have written to Mr. Beattie two or three times asking him to send them teachers. In the Greek village, they have offered the use of a house free. Thus the Lord is opening wide the field for the labour of His servants. "The walls of opposition are crumbling, and all that the army of the Lord has to do, is to go in and take possession."

Theological Class. A THEOLOGICAL CLASS for training candidates for the ministry—consisting of *five* young men, native converts—was conducted during the winter by Mr. Beattie. These have made gratifying progress. One of them, the most advanced, Yusef, it was proposed to send for a few months to the Theological Seminary at Abieh. We have thus the prospect, which it is hoped may be realized at no distant day, of sending forth, as the fruit of the Syrian Mission, native evangelists qualified to make known the glorious Gospel to their countrymen, and some that may hereafter be pastors of native churches, gathered out of the heathen and out of the corrupt churches of the East, under the banner of a Covenanted Testimony. In America a special fund has been in-

Special Fund for educating a Native Ministry. stituted for educating a native ministry in Syria in connexion with our mission, for which the sum of 450 dollars, the contribution of two ruling elders of the Church, has been already received. A more important object of Christian benevolence than this can scarcely be proposed. We trust that the friends of the Syrian Mission in these countries will evince

their interest in this important part of the work, by furnishing donations on its behalf.

Communion at Bahamra.

In the latest communication from Dr. Martin, under date of May 26th, which came to hand a few days ago, the interesting intelligence is contained of a Communion held at Bahamra on Sabbath, the 20th April last. There were tokens not a few of the Divine presence and blessing enjoyed on the solemn occasion. A number of the native converts came from villages some 20 miles distant, a number were from Latakia, with the missionaries and members of their families, all gathering together with apparent earnest desire to commemorate the Saviour's dying love. The communicants on the occasion were 32, and the whole number of hearers was about 80. A remarkable solemnity pervaded the assemblies that waited on the dispensation of the Supper on the Sabbath and on the preaching of the Word on the week-days. The brethren of the mission and their loved converts realized a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. On Monday, the sacrament of baptism was administered to four children of members of the church.

Intolerance of Turkish Governor.

Dr. Martin, in his letter, relates at some length the interference of the Turkish Governor of Latakia with the liberty of one of the teachers connected with the mission, in conducting schools in some of the villages. This, while causing for the time much anxiety to our esteemed brethren, appears likely to be ultimately overruled, for securing greater liberty for education and educational effort. Through the active and prompt interference of the American Consul-General for Syria, who is a friend to the truth and to the mission, and the co-operation of the English Vice-Consul at Latakia, there is ground to expect shortly an order from the Turkish Government to their subordinate at Latakia, commanding absolute non-interference in regard to the schools of the mission.

Mission Schools.

Mission Schools.—As it is evident that hitherto, in the history of the Syrian Mission, a manifest blessing has followed the labours of the missionaries in the Scriptural schools which they have established, and the hope of future progress appears to be intimately connected with the proper education and training of the native youth, it has been a subject of consideration both to the Mission Committee of Synod and to that of our brethren in Scotland how far and in what way we are called to co-operate in this important part of the work. We have had several communications from Dr. Martin on the subject, containing much information, and in all of them he expresses strongly the conviction that it would be highly desirable that our two Synods should do something definite

Mission Schools—Expense. in raising and expending funds for the promotion of Scriptural education in Syria. A teacher in a village school would cost £3 or £4 a month, and the average cost of boarding a scholar would be £9 or £10 a year. There would be little difficulty in establishing a village school, or schools, of which the only expense would be the payment of the teachers. But

Importance of Boarding Schools. then spiritual effects for the present are only to be looked for from the instructions given in the boarding schools, in which the children are removed from contact with the evil example of heathen parents, and are brought under the influence of daily religious instruction and family worship. To maintain one of these schools would require the erection of suitable buildings, and, besides the maintenance of the teacher, the sustenance of the pupils in food and clothing. When writing on the subject, Dr. Martin concurred with Mr. Beattie in strongly suggesting that, even should our two Synods agree to establish for themselves separate schools in Syria, all the schools, of whatever kind, in connexion with the mission, should be under a common government. Of this suggestion your committee unanimously and cordially approved, while, at the same time, they could not but express their heartfelt wish that, through the increased liberality of the Church, they might be enabled to render efficient aid to the educational work of the mission, and to provide for its still wider extension. The American Church, besides erecting school buildings at Latakia, expends nearly £1,600 a year on educational work, in addition to £700 or £800 per annum for the salaries of missionaries, and they appear to be ever ready to meet any new claims that are addressed to them for the support and extension of the work of the mission.

Donations. On the representation of Dr. Martin respecting the low state of the funds of the mission, and the special demands that were made during the last year upon them, your committee, at a special meeting held early in October, agreed to grant a donation of £40 out of the funds to meet present claims, and to communicate with brethren in Scotland on this subject. They readily resolved to appropriate £15 out of their mission funds for the same object. These sums were forthwith remitted to the missionaries in Syria, by whom

Duty to seek Extension of Mission. they were thankfully acknowledged. We cannot but give expression to our strongest conviction that it is the duty of the whole Church to offer up continually thanksgiving and prayer to God that He would sustain and bless our beloved brethren who are labouring in Syria, and that enlarged liberality may be shown throughout the whole Church to promote the extension and prosperity of the mission. To carry for-

ward the work in a becoming manner, we feel convinced that the two Synods in these countries should take measures for sending forth in due time additional agents—either fully qualified missionaries or teachers, male or female. If our congregations were each to undertake the expenses of educating a number of the native pupils in the boarding-schools, or if the children in the congregations of the church were to collect the amount required for sustaining a number of pupils, and if the wealthier members of the church would furnish donations for this object, or for the preparation of a native ministry, it would greatly tend to further the undertaking. We feel assured that He who declares "The liberal soul deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things shall he stand," would not suffer such beneficence for the advancement of His glory to go unrewarded.

Congregations should undertake support of Schools.

FUNDS.—On the subject of funds it seems only needful to remark that the annual collection in December last throughout the different congregations amounted to little more than £122. This, even with a few contributions which have been received since, does not much exceed the sum which the Synod agreed to pay as Dr. Martin's salary. It is, therefore, quite evident that, if this mission is to be adequately sustained and extended, our congregations must generally task themselves to supply a much larger yearly collection for this object. When a public collection, taken up in mid-winter, would be anticipated to furnish too small a sum, this might be considerably increased by urging the duty of church members to lay by in store beforehand for this special purpose, by supplying collecting cards to young persons for the Foreign Mission, and by soliciting annual subscriptions of a considerable amount from those who are able to give them.

Funds—Need of Increased Liberality.

In every aspect in which we can contemplate it, this mission appears deserving of the Church's prayerful interest and liberal support. The Lord has shown remarkably His goodness towards His servants engaged in the work of the mission in sustaining them in labours manifold, in upholding and comforting them in trials, and in setting before them an open door for the spread of His truth. Throughout the whole of Syria great changes are taking place, and signs are apparent of the way being cleared for the diffusion of the Gospel, and especially for the education and training of the rising generation in Scriptural principle. The *Rev. Dr. Jessup*, who has long laboured in Beyrout in connexion with the American Presbyterian Church, recently declared his conviction that, *in a few years* to come, the whole membership of the Greek Church in Syria will openly profess Protestantism. Con-

Encouragements.

Encouragements. sidering what the Lord has already done in this country for the honour of His great name, and in view of such wonderful changes, let us "arise and build the wall, that we be no longer a reproach." Let us "honour the Lord with our substance, and the first fruits of all our increase." Spending and being spent for the establishment of the Redeemer's kingdom in the earth, let us constantly and firmly rest on His assured promise—"*He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before Him, and His enemies shall lick the dust.*" (Psalm lxxii., 8, 9.)

XVI. The Report of the Colonial Mission was read by Mr. Brown. Its adoption was moved by the Rev. J. D. Houston, seconded by Mr. Nevin, and passed, *nem. diss.* The Report follows:—

Report of Col. Mission.

COLONIAL MISSION REPORT.

Christian Missions have not been a failure, as the infidel and sceptical have sometimes sneeringly or contemptuously affirmed. Christian missions cannot be a failure, for the promise and power of the Almighty are engaged on their side. Like the leaven hid in the lump, permeating silently and gradually till the whole is leavened, so is the influence of Christianity widening and extending. By "fearful works unto our prayers" God is expressing an answer. The mode of His operations seems to us often mysterious and incomprehensible; but yet we are allowed to sing of "the excellent and glorious majesty of His kingdom," in its ever-widening character over the face of our earth.

Our Disadvantages. Missions organized and maintained by the Reformed Presbyterian Church labour under great disadvantages as regards the ingathering of numbers. We seem to have fallen on the times spoken of by Paul, when "men will not endure sound doctrine." Churches that are satisfied with a more slender basis of Scripture truth, and who practically go upon the principle of open communion, can far outrun us at home and abroad in mere increase of numbers. But, whilst we would "preach the Gospel to every creature," we think our strength and duty lie in preserving a high Scripture standard before the world, as the door of fellowship to the Church. If we would judge of the success of our Missions in the North American British Colonies or Australia by the increase of our Church roll, we would have little encouragement. But the influence and usefulness of our Missions cannot thus be tested. The restless and changeful tendency of society in our times carries forth many from under our missionaries, with the good seed sown in their heart, to become moral and spiritual

lights in other parts, and many who change not their home, nor yet enrol in our fellowship, are enlightened in the doctrines of truth by the casual ministrations of our missionaries, and prepared to give better tone to other organizations, and to shine as moral lights in their respective neighbourhoods. A solitary light was valuable as a witness amidst thousands who bowed not the knee to the image of Baal, and the influence of our missionaries is wide, though, to a great extent, that influence be imperceptible to human observation. God measures it exactly, and it will not be unrewarded. Even granted that we have not much in the form of accessions from without to our ecclesiastical body, it is surely our duty to take charge of those who have avouched our Covenanted profession, all the more if, by separation from the old associations, they have been thrown into greater peril. The husbandman, if he be not able to break up new wastes, will not cease to cultivate assiduously the reclaimed ground. The builder, if he be not employed in the quarry raising the rough blocks from the parent rock, will be employed in carving and polishing the ingathered stones for the building. So must it be with us in our spiritual building, in our spiritual husbandry, lest the charge should be brought against us—"My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them." As a court of the Church of Christ, we should look well to the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made us overseers, whilst we should know no boundary in pushing forward our Master's kingdom. **Our Disadvantages.**

At our March meeting of Commission this year, a desire that had been expressed several times ripened into the appointment of a committee to obtain fuller information regarding the actual state and prospects of our several congregations and stations in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The spirit that prompted to such action was purely a spirit of zeal for the good of the Church and the prosperity of our Missions as a whole. That committee, through the Convener, forwarded a list of queries to the ministers of our Colonial congregations, and these have drawn forth a large amount of interesting information concerning the state of our Mission. These facts we are prepared to present to Synod, in the form in which received, as far as may be desired. The queries had respect to the history of the congregations, the number of members and adherents, mission stations visited by our missionaries, ministerial support, the prospects of the aid-receiving congregations becoming self-supporting, the state **Statistics.**

of religion, &c. The answers have been given frankly, fully, and in good spirit. We cannot condense in the report all the information forwarded, but we shall select a few points:—

Cornwallis. Cornwallis and Horton report that, in the former place, there are 61 members in full communion; in the latter, less than 40; that there are four out-stations in Cornwallis, visited each once in four weeks; in Horton, two. These are distant from the central places of worship about three, four, seven, ten, and two and seven miles. There are no members attached to these stations but such as are counted with the central congregations. The sum raised by pew rents in Cornwallis is only about £33 per annum, whilst all the supplements made by the mission stations connected with Cornwallis do not raise the stipend to £40 per annum. The prospect of extending our cause Mr. Sommerville thinks not so good as formerly, on account of delay in occupying the fields as they opened; but yet he adds there are two or three places full of promise to faithful and diligent cultivation in connexion with Horton as well as Cornwallis. There are Sabbath-school, weekly Bible class, together with fellowship meetings, in connexion with the congregation.

St. John. St. John reports that there are at present between 70 and 80 members in full communion, and several adherents and long-tried friends. Mr. Stavely's Sabbath ministrations are confined principally to the Congregation of St. John, but the promising station of Queensville is visited by him as opportunity offers, and has been visited by him more or less frequently since shortly after his settlement in the Province. It is situated at a distance of fifty-five miles from St. John, and has a promising nucleus of a congregation consisting of twenty-five communicants. The mission station of Littleton, in the state of Maine, near to the boundary line that separates this state from New Brunswick, lying at a distance of 138 miles from St. John, is visited occasionally by Mr. S., as well as the other members of Presbytery, and has in connexion with it a larger number of members than Queensville. The sum raised for ministerial support in St. John Congregation has varied considerably, according to the worldly circumstances of the people, but the average annual payment would not amount to £120. The members connected with the stations mentioned above do contribute liberally and cheerfully for the support of Gospel ordinances, but the distances of these places are so great that the pecuniary acknowledgment adds nothing to the support of our missionaries. Sabbath-school, fellowship meetings, and Renwick Associa

tion, for the instruction and entertainment of the young, are existing in healthful and active operation in the congregation. Mr. S. adds his testimony as to the prospects of our mission—that the encouragements for sending out more men are becoming every year less hopeful. . . Other Churches, with more men and more means, are likely to do the work which we, when opportunities were afforded, have proved ourselves either unwilling or unable to undertake. St. John.

The Congregation of Barnesville reports that there are at the present time fifty members in full communion, besides fifteen families of adherents, who hold pews in the place of worship, and regularly contribute to the support of the Gospel. The members and regular adherents constitute thirty-six families. Mr. Lawson preaches every alternate Sabbath at Barnesville. He preaches also at Black River, Tynemouth, Jemseg, and occasionally at other places. In all these places there are a few members, and their number might be very much increased if more regularly supplied with ordinances. The sum raised for ministerial support by Barnesville, together with the stations mentioned, is about £68 annually. But, to perform the ministerial duties connected with this widely-scattered charge, the pastor has to travel annually about 1,200 miles, whilst no extra allowance is received to cover travelling expenses. In the bounds of the Barnesville Congregation there are three fellowship meetings, and an active and prosperous missionary association, which, for several years, has forwarded to our mission schemes a considerable part of the annual allowance made from our funds on behalf of this congregation; and it is proposed by Mr. Lawson, that henceforth the grant to the congregation should only be an exact equivalent for the sum which this association may raise for the mission schemes of the Church. Should the congregation continue to advance as rapidly as it has done during the past year or two, it is expected that in a short time it will be self-supporting. Barnesville.

From the Congregation of Wilmot Mr. Stewart reports, that the congregation consists of forty members and four families of adherents. Besides the services given at Wilmot, the pastor preaches one Sabbath in the month at Margaretville, seven miles distant from Wilmot. On the afternoon of the same Sabbath he preaches in a school-house in Forest Glen. On another Sabbath in the month service is conducted in Lawrencetown, nine miles distant; and on the afternoon of this Sabbath Mr. S. conducts a Bible class at three o'clock in the Farmington School-house, and preaches in the same place on the evening of the day. The sum raised for minis- Wilmot.

Wilmot. terial support in Wilmot is £30 annually; by the station of Margaretville, £10; and Lawrencetown, £7. This congregation, as well as the others, has suffered much by emigration to the United States and other places, and the present numerical strength of this congregation or the others is not to be taken as a fair index of the results of the labours of our missionaries. There are of their former numbers a considerable proportion scattered throughout the United States, and these, in most cases, are an honour to the congregations with which they were originally connected.

Horton. Of the Congregation of Horton and its minister, the Rev. Robert M'G. Sommerville, we are not able to inform so fully and definitely. The Presbytery Report, which we have to present to Synod, tells us that, at the last meeting of Presbytery, a call from the R. P. Congregation of Cincinnati, U.S., was presented to the Rev. Robert Sommerville, and was by him declined; and, from information received from Mr. Sommerville, sen., we learn that he (Mr. Somerville, jun.) still continues to minister on Sabbaths to the brethren in Horton. How long the advantage of his ministrations in Horton may be hoped for, we are not sure. His father writes on this matter—"Should my son conclude to leave, I cannot adequately fill the place. It would break my heart to abandon Horton. The members are few, but there are two or three places full of promise to faithful and diligent cultivation connected with it. Could you not send one to take possession under my nominal pastorate?"

Reasons for Gratitude. It is surely cause of gratitude to the Church's Head that, at the close of another year of our ecclesiastical history, our missionaries are all occupying the field in health and vigour. The rapid advance of time is doing its wasting work upon some—upon all—but yet the interests of our mission do not suffer from weakness or infirmity. We have men for our missionaries of whom any Church might be proud—men who, both by the pulpit and the press, are able and willing to defend the truth and refute error—men whose influence is not limited to their immediate neighbourhood, but is felt throughout the Provinces where their lot is cast, and whose character and power are known and felt far beyond—men who have gone out from home and kindred, in the true spirit of the Christian Ambassador, and who, notwithstanding the brunt of opposition raised against them abroad and the apathy of the Church at home, still love their post and their duty, and are willing to toil and suffer in the Master's cause till the end. It is truly refreshing to feel the strength of their faith and the buoyancy of their hope,

despite all opposition. Surely it becomes us to beware of anything that might tend to discourage and paralyze their noble and self denied efforts. They have faithfully fulfilled the trust assigned them, and now, growing grey in the Church's service, and beginning to feel the exhaustion of hard labour, let us do what we can for their encouragement and prosperity. **Reasons for Gratitude.**

AUSTRALIA.—Our esteemed missionary in Australia and his little flock hold on their way, notwithstanding protracted loneliness and great opposition. The annual report forwarded to us a little agone, and which will appear in the July *Covenanter*, contains an account of the present state of the little congregation in Geelong. Concerning it and the interests of our mission there, our brother (Mr. Moore) adds, in an accompanying letter—"I enclose a copy of our annual Report for the year 1872. Its publication has been delayed through an effort to raise money to meet the deficiency in the funds, and still, as you will observe, we are behind. As a congregation we are become exceeding weak. What with death and removal to other places we are greatly reduced. It is years since we had male members sufficient to conduct a prayer-meeting, whereas at one time we had three fellowship societies in lively existence. The attendance on public worship keeps up tolerably well. We expect to observe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper on the third Sabbath in April. The state of religion in our colony at present is far from hopeful. Infidelity waxes bold, and the love of pleasure is the god worshipped by thousands, and of those, too, who reckon themselves good Christians. Conformity to the world's ways is freely and unblushingly adopted by the Churches, and religion is only a name with the vast majority. As appears to me, a grievous blight has passed over all the Churches, at home and abroad." These are sad and discouraging words, and yet we feel it our duty to present them; and, whilst they fall with sickening effect on our hearts, how they are fitted to stir our sympathies on behalf of our desolate and lonely brother and his little struggling flock! Sighing and crying, "By whom shall Jacob arise, for he is small?" let us not fail to go direct to Him with whom is all needful deliverance and help, and hear Him say, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord." We have appealed to man again and again both for men and means on behalf of this mission, and, when small response is made, there is nothing left for us but to press in more closely to the Lord of the Harvest, and cry, "Behold, and see, all this land is to be occupied; thrust forth labourers into thy harvest!" Let **Australia.**

Promise, us not be discouraged. Abraham had the promise as he gazed on the star-lit vault of heaven—"As the stars of heaven so shall thy seed be." But the stars of heaven shine long o'er his lowly grave ere that promise is fulfilled. The land is ours in promise. Bethlehem Ephratah, was little among the Princes of Judah, and yet on it was conferred the honour—"Out of thee shall He come forth who shall be ruler among my people Israel." Though we be little among the Princes of Judah, God may honor us to give forth the government of His house and kingdom. Sanballat and Tobiah taunted the Jews as they attempted the building of the wall around Jerusalem in these words—"What do these feeble Jews? . . . . That which they build if a fox go up he will even break down their stone wall." So some may be ready to say of our feeble efforts. But be it so. The foundation must be laid if the superstructure rise. The first dawn of day is hardly perceptible amid the reigning darkness of night, yet it is the sure precursor of noon-tide glory. Let us not despise the faint streaks of the bright and glorious day that will yet shine on our earth. In the heart of this great empire we are preserving the Scriptural Covenants by which this land was one day declared to be the Lord's. And by these small and feeble organizations we are proclaiming in distant dependencies of this great nation that the principles of these covenants should reign throughout the whole earth. It only requires the outpouring of God's Spirit in connexion with the spread of His truth, and multitudes will rally around our standard. "Men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed."

Call for help; The cry from one and both of the fields under our notice is "Come over and help us." The last and oft-repeated call from Australia is in these words—"Should you not send out a minister to labour in Melbourne? I would be glad if you would let me know what the objections are which are made by ministers, younger or older, to the proposal." We would echo that call, and we are sure the moral sense of the whole Church would answer the modest but earnest appeal of our brother emphatically—*We "should."* No objections sufficient can be advanced. We want volunteers for the service of our Captain. Let us beware lest we bring on ourselves the load of that heavy judgment, "Curse ye, Meroz, curse them bitterly, because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

"Come, labour on!
The labourers are few, the field is wide;
Now stations *must* be filled, and blanks supplied.

From voices distant far, or near at home,
The call is 'Come!'"

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION IV.

Wednesday, 18th June, Ten o'clock a.m.

Synod met, and resumed with prayer, Rev. W. Russell conducting devotional exercises.

Mr. Thomas Smyth, Elder from Dublin, appeared and took his seat.

XVII. Mr. John M'Donald, Ruling Elder from Glasgow, being present, was cordially invited to sit and deliberate.

XVIII. A commission from the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Scotland to Rev. James Kerr, Rev. Peter Carmichael, A.M., and Mr. Robert Logan, Ruling Elder, as a deputation to this Synod, was handed in and read. Mr. Kerr and Mr. Carmichael were present and took seats.

Memorial from Dublin.

XIX. A memorial from the congregation of Dublin, praying Synod to take measures for having an ordained minister located in that city, was brought up and read.

It was moved by the Rev. C. K. Toland, and seconded by the Rev. A. Savage—That, in the event of a minister being settled in Dublin, he shall have a salary of £200 per annum —£160 from the Irish Mission Fund, £60 from the Home Mission Fund (diminishing by £5 annually), and £40 from the Dublin congregation.

Moved as an amendment by Mr. M'Fadden, seconded by Mr. J. Hart—That the amount should be £150, with £50 to a Missionary Agent.

After some discussion, the motion and amendment were put to a vote, when the amendment was carried by a considerable majority.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION V.

Wednesday, 18th June, Seven o'clock p.m.

Synod met, and resumed with prayer, Rev. J. Brown conducting devotional exercises.

Home Mission

XX. The Committee appointed to consider the Resolutions appended to the Report of the Home Mission reported verbally, that they approved of them, and recommended that, for the current year, a second collection in aid of the funds of the Mission should be taken up on the first Sabbath of June, 1871.

The Report was read a second time by the Secretary Its adoption was moved by Dr. Dick, seconded by Mr. Reid, and passed, *nem. diss.* The following is the Report :—

HOME MISSION REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1873.

The State of the Funds.

As intimated in the report of last year, the expenditure of this scheme has now risen to the amount of £295 7s 3d. The income from all sources has failed to rise above the sum of £231 8s 6d.

On the 12th of August last the Rev. Joseph Hamilton was disannexed from the congregation of Garvagh, and, in consequence, the grant in aid of that settlement terminated. A desire has been expressed, however, on the part both of the congregation and the Presbytery, that the grant should be renewed, in the event of another settlement. The Rev. Torrens Boyd was installed in the pastorate of the Ringrash congregation on the 5th day of February of this year; but, from the beginning of the year, the supplemental grant of last Synod came into requisition, so that the permanent demand upon the fund continues substantially unchanged. The balance on hand at last settlement is now almost entirely eaten up, and our annual liabilities are at present about £64 in advance of the annual contributions of the church. Besides, the Synod has already committed itself to a number of additional grants, which may, at any time, be required at our hands. During the year the congregation of Mulvin addressed a call to one of our probationers, which, if it had been accepted, would have involved us in the additional payment of £35 for the first year. Garvagh, presuming upon the continuance of its former grant, was also eager to obtain a settlement during the year. Killinchy and Liverpool have both received from former meetings of Synod the pledge of considerable annual assistance in the event of their obtaining pastors. Putting the grants which Synod has already sanctioned to the sum by which our present payments exceed our income, we rise to a total which is almost double the present amount of the contributions of the several congregations of the Church. In these circumstances, how are we to meet the exigencies of the coming year? Or, in other words, how are we, with an income of £231, to answer demands to the extent of £295? And in the event of any or all of the congregations specified above seeking and obtaining fixed pastors, as they have been encouraged to do, how are we to keep our plighted faith with them by the payment of £100, or it may be of £185 in addition?

From year to year these Home Mission Reports have held out a warning signal against the approach of such a crisis. These warnings, however, have not been sufficiently heeded. Moreover, various remedies have been proposed and recommended, it may have been thought, with overmuch vehemence, in order to provide against, and, if possible, to obviate approaching complications. It was urged that Juvenile Missionary Associations should be organized in every congregation, and aid-receiving congregations were appealed to in particular, and for their own interests, to take the initiative in this matter. By this means a sufficiently increasing amount might have been annually poured into the treasury wherewith to meet our increasing liabilities. Last year, when the crisis seemed inevitable, the Synod was urged to declare that the older grants, like those of more recent date, should be diminished by a small sum every year, while measures should be adopted at the same time to rouse these several congregations to, at least, a corresponding advance in their own contributions. As the Synod did not see fit to adopt either of these plans, which might have been successful, we can only at present point out two additional courses, by one or other of which we may escape from impending difficulties. This Synod might either order a second collection in the year for the support of this mission; or, if that be considered inexpedient, the treasurer may be instructed to reduce proportionately all payments, according to the amount that may be contributed by the Church during the year. The latter course would be one altogether without precedent, either in the Word of God, or in the history of the Church; and we could not but consider its adoption to be a deep and indelible disgrace to the character and spirit of this Church. The former course will require careful consideration, as it would necessitate some re-adjustment of our public collections.

Remedies proposed.

With regard to the importance of taking immediate steps to have a Manse provided in every congregation, we beg to repeat the following sentences from last year's Report, which failed to secure the special attention of the Court:—Every year it is becoming more difficult and expensive to secure a suitable Ministerial residence. With the miserably small income which our ministers generally receive, it is simply impossible for them to pay a heavy rent, and it is highly inexpedient and dangerous for them to become personally involved in the purchase of land. The first and most accessible remedy in most cases would be a Manse. In many villages and country districts a valuable property might be secured, in

Manses.

Manses. perpetuity, for a comparatively small sum, at the present time. Even weak congregations would willingly join in an enterprise so manifestly tending to their own advantage, if it were fairly set before them; and the effort would develope at once their resources and their self-reliance. Liberal men throughout the neighbourhood and the Church would gladly encourage such local and praiseworthy efforts. If a Manse Committee were appointed to make thorough inquiry into this matter, and to advise and co-operate with Presbyteries and Congregations, it might be found not impracticable to originate, and carry forward to completion, two or three projects of this kind every year. Thus in a short time, and without any very great expenditure, a convenient and suitable house might be secured for the Minister in connection with every place of worship. This would at once set the Minister free from temptations and distractions which directly militate against his proper work, or incapacitate him for its due performance. Moreover, it would greatly simplify and tend to promote the important and still urgent question of a right Ministerial Support.

Ministerial Support. On the subject of Ministerial Support in general, we submit the following resolutions to the earnest consideration and acceptance of Synod at the present time:—

1. That, having in view the ordinance of Christ—"that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel"—and taking into account the great increase in the cost of living which has obtained in the course of the past few years, it is hereby declared that no minister, in any locality, even with a Manse, can properly maintain a highly responsible position on a lower stipend than £150 in the year.

2. In the meantime, we judge it to be inexpedient for any Presbytery to settle a minister over an ordinary self-supporting congregation until an annual income of at least £125 has been provided for his support.

3. That no minister should be appointed to the charge of an aid-receiving congregation on a lower stipend than £100 in the year.

4. That the members of aid-receiving congregations be required to contribute, on the average, at the rate of 15s per member for the support of the Gospel among themselves before receiving supplemental assistance from the funds of the Church.

5. That when a congregation raises from its own resources the sum of at least £65 in the year for the support of a minister, a supplement of £85 will, in accordance with former regulations, be given to it in the event of its obtaining a settled pastor.

6. That all Home Mission grants to congregations having a pastor shall, without exception, be diminished, year by year, according to such a ratio as shall be determined by Synod.

7. That the Secretary be instructed to prepare and send to every family a Circular Appeal, calling upon them to join in a united and earnest effort for the advancement of Ministerial Support throughout the whole Church.

Ministerial Support.

8. That the ministers and elders be hereby enjoined to instruct the people, in a faithful and loving manner, that it is their duty to contribute for this, and all the other schemes of the Church, *as the Lord hath prospered them*; and especially that they should bring to the Lord's house, on the first day of the week, a suitable and grateful offering, as an act of that public worship which is due to His blessed name.

9. That a small committee be now appointed, whose duty it shall be to arrange with Presbyteries for the visitation of every congregation at some convenient time during the year. And that this committee shall first hold a conference with the Elders and Deacons or Committee on this subject, and thereafter publicly address the members assembled, if it be deemed expedient.

10. That this committee be directed, at the same time, to make special inquiry as to the practicability of obtaining Manses in such congregations as do not now possess them, and present a separate Report on this subject to next Synod.

11. That Presbyteries be requested to embody in their next annual Reports to this Court a full account of the diligence and success with which this movement has been prosecuted within their bounds during the year.

12. That aid-receiving and other congregations be encouraged immediately to organize Juvenile Missionary Associations, for the better collection of funds on behalf of the Home Mission and the other Missions of this Church.

A second collection, as recommended by the Committee on the Resolutions, was ordered to be taken on the first Sabbath of June.

Rev. C. K. Toland, Mr. M'Donald, of Glasgow, and Mr. Thomas Smyth addressed the court on the subject of Ministerial Support.

Report on Temperance.

XXI. Mr. Chancellor read the annual Report on Temperance Its adoption was moved by the Rev. J. D. Houston, seconded by Rev. R. A. M'Farlane, and passed, *nem. diss.* The Report follows:—

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE—JUNE, 1873.

Sermons on Temperance.

In accordance with the direction of last Synod, a circular was sent to each minister of the Church reminding him of the appointment to preach on the subject of temperance on the third Sabbath of December. This circular was accompanied, in every case, by a number of temperance publications. Presbyteries were requested to make inquiry with regard to the observance of this appointment, and report the result to this meeting of Synod. The extent to which these arrangements have been carried out will not be known until all Presbyterial reports have been laid upon your table. But, from information which has reached the Secretary from various quarters, there is reason to believe that the appointment has been very generally observed. Indeed, we trust it will be found that our

ministers, without exception, have faithfully and earnestly delivered the testimony of God on this most pressing and important subject, not only on the Sabbath specified by Synod, but on many other occasions during the year.

The Evil to be grappled with

There is no form of evil in the present day with which the Church is brought into such direct and deadly conflict as the evil of intemperance. It is not merely a sin against God, which excludes from His kingdom in heaven, and cuts off from the fellowship of His saints on earth, but, as it extinguishes the reason, perverts the moral faculties, debases the character, destroys all the religious habits of the man, turns his social standing and influence into a wide-spread source of mischief and of scandal to the community, and fills his physical constitution with the power of a mysterious disease that tends inevitably to destruction, it becomes a crying disgrace and injury both to the Church and to the nation. The nation, instead of laying to heart its great responsibility before God and the world in this matter, actually licenses the unlimited manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks, and then pretends to discharge its whole duty to the community by endeavouring, at great expense, to protect peaceful subjects from the violent assaults of drunken men, or, rather, by inflicting pains and penalties upon the poor maddened and unfortunate victims of a licensed intoxication. On the Church, then, must rest, in the mean time, the sole burden of dealing with the great and terrible vice of intemperance, which, like a volcano, is incessantly pouring forth its burning torrents over all the land.

The Church's Duty.

The Church of God on earth consists of all those who have been openly separated from the errors and vices of the age, and are solemnly dedicated to the service of Christ. It is the Divine organization whereby every form of evil is to be vanquished and driven out of this world, and by which men are to be rescued from the dominion of sin and of the Devil. Not only should the Church loudly call upon all men to arise and break free from the fetters of sin, and flee for refuge to the hope that is set before them in the Gospel, but she should take special care to protect all who are within her pale, and, in particular, the young who have been born and brought up in her membership, from being seduced and torn from her bosom by any of the abounding forms or habits of evil by which she is surrounded. Can it be otherwise than a cause of sorrow and shame and disgrace to a congregation or to a Church if, through any want of faithful and oft-repeated warning, or of constant and anxious supervision, and of a consistent example, any, even the least of their members, are permitted to be gra-

dually sucked into the rapids, till at length they are swallowed up for ever in the terrible vortex of a hopeless intoxication? Should not the members of the Church be defended, sword in hand, at every accessible point, with unslumbering watchfulness, against the more open or the more stealthy assaults of such an adversary? Should not all office-bearers and members be banded together, equipped and ready either for defence or for aggression against so dangerous a foe? And should not every minister in the Church, conscious that success in this great conflict must mainly depend upon the promptness and fidelity with which he leads the people to the strife, be able to say, with Nehemiah, "Therefore set I the people after their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. And I looked and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them; remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren your sons and your daughters, your wives and your houses. And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another; In what place, therefore, ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us; Our God shall fight for us?" **The Church's Duty.**

Wherever the true nature and terrible magnitude and power of this evil are sufficiently realized the standing testimony and concentrated energy of the whole Church will be directed mainly against it. No other evil inflicts so much damage upon the community or so directly threatens the utter subversion of religion in the land. The strength and resources that should be heartily expended on the cause of God and on the advancement of humanity are, by the various agencies of intemperance, not only drawn away, wasted, and destroyed, but turned into the channels whereby crime, immorality, and death are most extensively disseminated through the country. Not only does intemperance enfeeble and counteract the best efforts of the Church, it is actually dragging away its members and office-bearers year after year into an abyss of hopeless and never-ending ruin. The late Charles Buxton, the brewer, has given the following testimony on a subject with which he had opportunities of becoming but too familiar:—"It is the mightiest of all the forces that clog the progress of good. It is in vain that every engine is set to work that philanthropy can devise, when those whom we seek to benefit are habitually tampering with their faculties of reason and will, soaking their brains with beer, or inflaming them with ardent spirits. The struggle of the school, the **Urgency of the Conflict.**

library, and the Church, all united against the beer-shop and gin-palace is but one development of the warfare between heaven and hell."

Intemperance increasing.

It is lamentable in the extreme to have to record that, with the increased prosperity of the country, there has been a still more rapid increase in the drinking usages of the people, and in the profligacy and dissipation that are their uniform concomitants. This is apparent in all the different ranks of society, from the highest to the lowest. Even female intemperance among the more respectable classes has become so notorious of late as to attract the attention and call forth the denunciations of the public press. The growing wealth of the country, which should produce an immediate improvement in the refinement and comforts of the people, and in the power of every philanthropic agency for good, has been producing the opposite effects. In the financial statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer this year he said—"The increased consumption of spirits has been at the rate of £25,000 a week, a statement he could make only with mixed feelings; for, while he could not help feeling that a great portion of the money so spent might have been better employed, he must, nevertheless, congratulate the working classes on having so much money to spare. It has been ascertained that the revenue for spirits has advanced, for the last four years, at the rate of £600,000 a year." An eminent statistician and philanthropist has recently published the following astounding facts:—"The amount of money spent in the purchase of intoxicating liquors during the year 1872 amounted to the enormous sum of £131,601,490. It is a humiliating and painful thought," he adds, "that a country priding itself on its Christianity should spend upon its gratification and licentiousness such an appalling sum. We contribute some £700,000 or £800,000 per annum for the evangelization of the world, and take credit to ourselves for doing it, whilst every two days we spend the like amount on our own sensuality." A member of the committee of the House of Commons on the question of habitual drunkards says—"I think, from the evidence then adduced, that, while the prosperity of this country has been enormously increased, and while the position of the working classes has been, so far as wages are concerned, very much improved, yet that all this prosperity and improvement has created a taste for drink which never, to the same extent, was known before." One of the largest employers of skilled labour in England declares—"Instead of the great increase of wages which we have seen within the last twelve months being an unmitigated blessing, I must say that, in a great many instances, it has

been an unmitigated curse." That the same thing is true with regard to our own country may be learned from the statements which Judge Lawson recently delivered from the bench in Londonderry. He said—"The only matter to which I have to refer, and I do so with regret, is the fact that intoxication appears to be steadily on the increase. I believe that every judge has observed that this vice is the fruitful source of every crime. Whether its further progress can be checked by additional legislative measures it is not for me to say, but, undoubtedly, the fact appears that, with the progress of society and the increase of wages, this dreadful propensity increases in the same ratio." To show that the same dread effects uniformly follow the opening of public-houses and the prevalence of drinking customs in heathen as in Christian lands, we may quote the words of the *Kaffir Express*, a missionary journal published at one of the principal mission stations in Kaffraria, South Africa:—"One of the greatest obstructions to missionary work, I am sorry to say, is the spread of intemperance, which is so general that it will require a very stringent licensing law, or law for punishing drunkenness, to be put in force, or else the Kaffirs may be decimated like the Hottentots, or cut off like the North American Indians." **Intemperance increasing.**

The new Licensing Act which has recently come into operation has considerably reduced the more glaring abuses of the liquor traffic both in this country and in England, and is an encouragement to the friends of temperance to agitate, and press upon the Government the necessity of granting still greater restrictions and a more thorough supervision. The Bill for the Closing of Public-houses on the whole of the Lord's day in Ireland is still before the House of Commons, and is to come on for a second reading on the 9th day of July. Surely we should use all the legitimate influence at our command to have so necessary and important a measure passed into law. The various Churches are giving more consideration and prominence to the advocacy of this great question than heretofore. Every year they are taking up a bolder and firmer attitude with regard to it, and uttering a louder and more uncompromising protest against the drinking system of the age, not merely because this system is sapping the vitality and strength both of the nation and of the Churches, but also because, owing to the apparent indifference and inadequate opposition which they had manifested in the past, various voluntary associations have sprung up, more or less on the avowed ground that the Church is neither willing nor able sufficiently to grapple with the abuses and evils of **The Churches rising to action.**

The Churches rising to action.

the land. Of these associations Good Templarism is a secret society, and is striving to swallow up all other temperance societies, and to take this great work entirely out of the hands of the Church. One beneficial result of these voluntary associations is that the Churches everywhere have been provoked into greater activity, and forced to consider what should be the place and the attitude of the Church of the Living God with regard to all such matters. In England the Roman Catholics have formed themselves into a great and powerful Association for the suppression of intemperance, and a very advanced movement has been just inaugurated in the Church of England, which promises to be productive of immense good in the furtherance of this great object. After collecting and publishing the valuable statistics contained in the report of Convocation which was circulated among the ministers last year, an organization has been formed, under the presidency of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, designed to embrace the entire Church, for the suppression of intemperance and the better promotion and regulation of Total Abstinence Associations. Its objects are thus stated :—

"The formation of a sound public opinion as to the connection between intemperance and the undue facilities and temptations presented by the present public-house system.

"The giving to local opinion its due share, in conjunction with the existing authorities, in the granting or refusing of licences, and in the regulation of public-houses and beer-shops.

"The preparation of lesson-books for reading in the national schools of the country, with special teaching on the moral, social, and physical effects resulting from intemperance.

"The promotion of union for special prayers throughout the country for the Divine blessing upon the temperance movement.

"The establishment of Parochial Temperance Societies, Guilds, and Bands of Hope, based on the principles of Total Abstinence, under the superintendence or with the sanction of the parochial clergy, as the proved and most effectual human means of bringing the intemperate under the teaching and power of the Gospel, and so setting them free from the bondage of their sin, and of preserving others from the abounding temptations of the day."

After the reading of the Report, the Rev. J. Kerr and some members of Synod addressed the court on the subject, and Dr. Houston submitted the following Resolutions, which were agreed to :—

Resolutions on Temperance.

1. While unanimously adopting the clear and satisfactory Report on Temperance presented by the Secretary of the Synodical Temperance Association, this Synod, considering the evidence so abundantly furnished of the great increase, of late years, of Intemperance throughout the nation, and the innumerable evils which have flowed from it, affecting the Church as well as the Community, utter unanimously their solemn and emphatic Protest against the Traffic in Intoxicating Drinks, against the present Licensing System, which,

however sustained by law, and in some respects modified and improved by recent legislation, still inflicts much injury on society, and against the prevailing drinking usages, and they hereby earnestly enjoin it upon the Ministers, Elders, and members of this Church to stand altogether aloof from this system and these usages, and to do whatever a due sense of Christian obligation demands, wholly to discountenance them and to have them done away. Resolutions on Temperance.

2 The Synod, furthermore, recommend to the Ministers, Office-bearers, Parents, and Sabbath-school teachers in connexion with the Church, to labour with all diligence to raise the standard of public opinion, in relation to the aggravated sin of participation in the Drink Traffic and in common Drinking Customs, and the connexion between Intemperance and the facilities and temptations presented by the present Public-house system. At the present crisis, they should especially assign a prominent place, in instructing the young, to the teachings of Holy Scripture on the subject of Intemperance; while, at the same time, they should promote, as far as in their power, the diffusion of a sound Temperance Literature.

3. It is, moreover, recommended that special prayer should be offered in public, in the Fellowship Meetings of the Church, and in families, for the Divine blessing to rest upon all Scriptural efforts for the suppression of Intemperance.

4. Again, the Synod recommend the formation of Temperance Associations and Bands of Hope in the several congregations of the Church, based upon the principle of Total Abstinence — to be under the superintendence of the respective Sessions; and that these should labour continually, that all the members and rising youth of the Church be brought to stand wholly separate from drinking customs.

5. Finally—Having regard to the present powerful combinations and vigorous efforts of those who are interested in perpetuating the the Manufacture and Sale of intoxicating Drinks, this Synod hereby renew the recommendation which they formerly gave to the Ministers, Elders, and people of the Church—to lend their countenance and efficient aid, in every way consistent with their profession, to such important measures submitted to the Legislature as the Permissive Bill, the Bill for Closing Public-houses on the Lord's Day, and the Habitual Drunkards' Bill.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VI.

Thursday, 19th June, Ten o'clock a.m.

Synod met, and resumed with prayer, Dr. Dick conducting devotional exercises.

XXII. Dr. Houston intimated that Charles Finlay, Esq., of Belfast, had furnished to him copies of the Life of the Rev. Thomas Toye, with the design that one should be presented to each of the Ministers and Licentiates of Synod The copies were distributed, and the Clerk was instructed to convey the thanks of Synod to Mr. Finlay. Mr. Finlay's Gift.

XXIII. A Committee, consisting of Mr. Chancellor, with the Treasurer and Clerk of Synod, was appointed to consider the terms of the will of the late Mr. Scott, so as to be able

to report to Synod at next meeting as to the manner in which his bequest should be appropriated.

Committee on Min. Support

XXIV. The following Committee was appointed to take measures, by sending deputations to congregations and otherwise as they may see fit, for having the Resolutions appended to the Home Mission Report carried out, viz.:—Rev. J. A. Chancellor (*Convener*), Rev. Dr. Dick, Rev. J. Brown, Rev. C. K. Toland, with Messrs. S. Clugston, J. Reynolds, T. Henry, W. O'Neill, and W. Reid. Mr. M'Donald, of Glasgow, was requested to be a member, and act on this Committee, and he kindly consented.

It was agreed that the Resolution No. 6, of those appended to the Home Mission Report, should not take effect for the present year.

XXV. Messrs. Russell, Douglas, and Cleland were appointed a Committee to make arrangements for supplying Dublin with preaching. To report to-morrow.

Grant to Newtownards

XXVI. A memorial from the congregation of Newtownards, licensed by the Eastern Presbytery, praying Synod to continue the grant made to them from the Home Mission Fund last year, was handed in and read. It was ordered that the same amount should be given to them this year as last.

Grant to Garvagh.

XXVII. A memorial from Garvagh, licensed by the Northern Presbytery, praying for a grant of £30 from the Home Mission Fund, in the event of a minister being settled there, was also read. The request was granted.

Belfast Memorial, *re* Australia and New Zealand.

XXVIII. A memorial from the Session of the Belfast congregation, licensed by the Eastern Presbytery, praying Synod "to take such steps as may seem to be most suitable for obtaining and sending out another Minister, to join with Mr. Moore in constituting a Presbytery in Australia; and also, as soon as possible, to send out a Minister to New Zealand, to organize and dispense ordinances to the scattered members of the Church in that interesting and advancing colony," was presented and read. Mr. Chancellor and Mr. S. Mackeown were heard in support of it. Dr. Houston proposed a resolution on the subject, which was unanimously agreed to, as follows:—

"Synod, in answer to the memorial from the Session of the congregation of Belfast, in relation to sending out forthwith a second missionary to Australia, unanimously and cordially approve of the object of the memorial, and express the earnest desire that it may, through the devotedness of the Ministers and Licentiates of the Church, be speedily carried into effect. Synod appoint the following Committee for this object; with instructions to use all diligence in endeavouring to obtain a suitable agent, Minister or Licentiate, for

this important service, and to report to Commission at it's next meeting:—Revs. J. Brown (*Convener*), J. A. Chancellor, Dr. Houston, W. Russell."

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VII.

Thursday, 19th June, Seven o'clock p.m.

Synod met, and resumed with prayer, Mr. Nevin conducting devotional exercises.

XXIX. The Rev. J. D. Houston read a Report on Psalmody. After some discussion of the subject, the disposal of the Report was postponed till to-morrow.

Sc. Deputation heard.

XXX. Dr. Dick introduced the Deputation from the Scottish Synod. The Rev. James Kerr and the Rev. Peter Carmichael, A.M., successively addressed the court, as did also Mr. M'Donald, at the request of the Moderator. After their addresses the following resolution, moved by Mr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Douglas, was passed, *nem. diss.*—

"Synod, having heard the interesting statements and powerful addresses of the members of the Deputation and esteemed Elder from the sister Judicatory in Scotland, hereby offer to these beloved brethren their cordial salutations, and the high appreciation of the service which they have rendered on this occasion, equally to the Synod which they have represented and to us. At the same time, we take leave to convey to our brethren of the Scottish Synod, united most closely with us in the sacred bond of the same Covenant and Testimony, our cordial congratulations on account of the grace given them to maintain and advance the Redeemer's cause. Especially would we express our high gratification with the excellent example which they have held out to this and other churches, in enlarged Christian liberality for supporting the Ministry and extending the Kingdom of Christ. And we hereby assure our dear brethren of the Scottish Synod, that we shall ever continue to take the most lively interest in all their work, to sympathize in their trials, and to regard it as a high privilege to co-operate with them in common efforts for the diffusion of the principles of a Covenanted Testimony throughout the world."

Dr. Houston, Mr. Lyons, and Mr. W. J. Galway, Elder, were appointed a deputation to the Scottish Synod next year.

Adjourned with prayer.

SESSION VIII.

Friday, 20th June, Ten o'clock a.m.

Synod met, and resumed with prayer, Rev. I. Thompson conducting devotional exercises.

XXXI. The consideration of the Report on Psalmody was resumed. It was unanimously agreed, that Synod's thanks are due and are hereby given to Mr. Houston for the pains

he has taken in this matter, and that the Report be received and published in the Minutes, with some modifications suggested in the discussion of the subject. The following is the Report:—

Report on Psalmody.

Report on Psalmody.

When trying to carry out your appointment of last year, we have to report that it seemed to us that we would do sufficient work, and, indeed, all the work that could be done during the first year, if we would be able to tell you the actual state of matters with regard to Psalmody throughout our Church. That you may take any wise and efficient action, we have thought it necessary to lay before you, as truly as possible, the manner in which the very important service of praise is performed by our people.

What is the amount of attention given to the subject of Psalmody by the Church? and what is the degree of excellence which characterizes this service within her bounds? These are the two questions which we shall endeavour to answer.

With the view of being able to furnish somewhat approximately correct replies to them, towards the end of our last synodical year, we issued to all the ministers of the Church a query sheet containing the three following queries, viz.:—

Queries.

I. Have you a singing-class in connexion with your congregation?

II. Have you a paid precentor, and has he a good knowledge of music? If you have a choir of two or more voices, please state so.

III. Do the members of the congregation generally join heartily in the singing? Do they take an interest in sacred music?

To these queries we have received replies from all our congregations, with one exception, and we beg to take this opportunity of thanking the brethren who so promptly and so courteously complied with our request.

We shall now try to lay before you, in a few sentences, the information which the answers to the queries furnish.

Replies.

The first part of the third query—viz., "Do the members of the congregation generally join heartily in the singing?"—has been almost without exception answered in the affirmative. Some of the replies, however, state that, while joining heartily in the singing, the people do not join skilfully. In not more than three or four cases, is it said that the people take any deep interest in sacred music.

From the answers to the second query, we find that there are just nine paid precentors in our congregations. We did

Report on Psalmody.

not put any enquiry regarding the amount of salary paid to each.

With regard to their knowledge of music, taking in the whole number of paid and non-paid precentors, we find that there are four who have a good knowledge of music, about as many more who possess an average knowledge, and of the rest it is not said that they have any acquaintance with the science. There is no choir in any of our congregations. In some cases two voices together lead the singing.

The replies to query I. tell us that there is a class for the practice of sacred music in only six of our congregations. In some others there is occasionally a class which meets for a short time, and is then suspended, to be revived again on some future occasion.

From the replies furnished to these queries it will be gathered—

I. That our people very generally throughout the Church are inclined to join in singing the praise of God in the sanctuary. We might say that the members of the Covenanting Church, more than the members of any other church, consider it a sacred duty to join in the singing.

Defects.

II. That, although it is felt to be a duty to join in singing the praise of God, this service is very inadequately performed. In many places the singing is not what it should be, or what it might be.

III. That sufficient means *have not* been used to cultivate a taste for sacred music and to improve the singing of our people.

How to remedy the acknowledged defect? No one will say that the time has not come when the Church should take some wise, judicious, and effective action in this important matter, It is not the business of a report to enter into discussion as to the merits of the subject, nor is it necessary in this case, as you will freely admit that such a subject as praising the Most High in a worthy manner is of prime importance.

We would make the following suggestions to Synod by way of remedying what we take the liberty of calling the great evil which the information laid before you reveals:—

Remedy.

First—This Synod should take the service of praise of the whole Church more under its patronage, and should enjoin ministers and sessions to direct the attention of our people strongly to it.

Second—There should be a class for sacred music taught by a competent person in each of our congregations, and under the inspection of the minister and session.

Third—In all our congregations the attention of the young in Sabbath-schools and Bible classes, and in families, should be directed to the study of sacred music.

Days of Thanksgiving and Fasting.

XXXII. A draft summary of Causes of Thanksgiving and Humiliation was submitted by the Rev. Thomas Hart. It was adopted, with some suggested alterations, and ordered to be published.

The last Thursday of November was appointed to be observed as the day of annual Thanksgiving; and the last Thursday of January, 1874, as the day of annual Humiliation.

The Rev. W. Russell and the Rev. T. Dick were appointed to draw up a summary of Causes for next year.

Code of Discipline.

XXXIII. A Committee, consisting of the Moderator, Dr. Dick, and the Clerk, was appointed to consider the Book of Government and Discipline, with a view to having a revised edition of it published. To report in writing to Synod at next meeting.

Com. on Testimony.

XXXIV. The Committee on the Testimony had not their Report matured. The Committee was continued, with instructions to carry out the design of their original appointment as early as may be found practicable.

Reports of Presbyteries.

XXXV. Reports of Presbyteries were called for, and submitted as follows:—

I.—NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

Northern.

Since last meeting of Synod, the Northern Presbytery has met five times. The appointed days of Fasting and Thanksgiving have been observed. The Sacrament of our Lord's Supper has been dispensed in all our congregations, and the ordinances generally have been attended to with the usual regularity. The cause of true religion is, on the whole, we think, in a healthy and progressive state. Christian liberality, though not diminishing, is yet far from being proportionate to the people's ability and the righteous claims of the Redeemer on the property over which He has placed them for a season as stewards. We fear that the Scriptural standard, of giving "as God has prospered," has yet been reached by very few. The reasonable expectations that we had been led to entertain respecting enlarged ministerial support in some congregations have not yet been realized. We are not, however, without hope that next year's report will be more favourable.

State of Religion.

The Drink Traffic.

None of our members are engaged in the sale of intoxicating drink. We would greatly rejoice if we could report that amongst us none purchase or partake of it. This most desirable condition of affairs shall yet, we trust, be attained.

On 6th August, the Rev. Joseph Hamilton reiterating his application to be disannexed from the congregation of Garvagh, and the people leaving the matter entirely to the disposal of the court, the pastoral relation between him and them was by the Presbytery formally dissolved. Mr. Hamilton, after filling some appointments in our bounds, applied for credentials, and emigrated to the United States of America. **Disannexion, Mr. Hamilton**

On the same day Mr. William Dick, A.M., after having, in a very creditable manner, furnished the usual trial exercises, was licensed to preach the Gospel. **Licence, Mr. W. Dick.**

On the 5th of November a call from the congregation of Ringrash in favour of the Rev. Torrens Boyd, at that time minister of Penpont, Scotland, was sustained by Presbytery. This was transmitted to the joint-Presbyteries of Edinburgh and Glasgow, by that court presented to Mr. Boyd, and by him accepted. Mr. Boyd was thereupon disannexed from the congregation of Penpont, transferred to the jurisdiction of the Northern Presbytery, and, on the 5th of February, installed in the congregation of Ringrash. Presbytery earnestly commend to the sympathy of this Synod and of the Church generally this young congregation and their first minister, and trust that such aid shall be granted as, with the continued and increasing efforts of the people themselves, may suffice to maintain in efficiency the pastorate in Ringrash. **Installation, Mr. Boyd.**

The congregation of Garvagh, under exceptionally discouraging circumstances, are faithfully adhering to the Church's testimony, and harmoniously co-operating in the maintenance of the cause they have espoused. A moderation in a call has been granted them, and shortly after Synod the necessary steps shall be taken to give effect to their wishes. They, too, for some time to come, will need the fostering care of Synod, and we have every confidence that they will, by their own very earnest efforts, prove themselves not undeserving of all Synod can do for them. **Garvagh.**

The only student under care of Presbytery is Mr. Matthew Neill, who has been two sessions at the Hall. **Students.**

Mr. Lynd, a student formerly under the care of Presbytery, having received a statement of his standing from the Clerk of Presbytery, has emigrated to the United States of America.

TORRENS BOYD, MODERATOR.
WILLIAM TOLAND, CLERK.

II.—SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of S. Presbytery.

The Southern Presbytery report that, since last meeting of Synod, they have held four regular meetings, all characterized

State of Religion. by concord and brotherly love. The Lord's Supper has been dispensed twice in all our congregations, the days of Fasting and Thanksgiving appointed by Synod have been duly observed, and the collections for the different schemes of the Church have been taken up. The usual supplies of preaching have been given to the missionary stations—Lisdonnan, Dublin, and Dromore, in the last of which the Lord's Supper has been dispensed once. Important accessions have been made to our people in Dublin during the past year, and Presbytery are of opinion that a fixed pastor, who, at the same time might discharge some missionary work, should be placed over them. A memorial from this station, sanctioned by Presbytery, will be brought before Synod.

Temperance. The cause of Temperance is gaining ground among us, especially with the young, and Temperance Associations have been organized in connection with many of our congregations; yet we lament that some of our members manifest a conformity to the world by giving their countenance to the drinking customs of the time.

Mr. Lillie. Presbytery, while cordially sympathizing with their excellent brother, Rev. G. Lillie, under his present infirmities, are truly grateful to the Head of the Church that hitherto he has been enabled to discharge the work of the pulpit and the pastorate, though with great and increasing difficulty.

Mr. Scott. Mr. William Scott has finished his Literary and Theological course, and delivered before Presbytery three of the prescribed pieces of trial for licensure; but, not having obtained a Degree in Arts, we submit his case to the decision of the supreme court.

Presbytery nominate Revs. W. S. Ferguson and Alexander Lyons members of Commission for the ensuing year.

JOSEPH F. HURST, Moderator.
GAWIN DOUGLAS, Clerk.

III.—EASTERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of E. Presbytery The Eastern Presbytery report that, since last Synod, they held six regular and two special meetings. The manner in which the ordinances have been observed gives no reason to suspect any declension of religion within their bounds.

State of Religion. The vacant stations under their care have been duly supplied. Liverpool has had close on full time. The collections for the several schemes are punctually taken.

A course of Presbyterial visitation is entered on, and two of their congregations have been visited—Larne and Ballyclare. The condition of these congregations was found to be in many respects very satisfactory, and Presbytery addressed

to the respective parties commendation, accompanied by such advice as the circumstances of the respective congregations seemed to require.

Syria.

According to arrangement with our esteemed missionary in Syria, the correspondence is kept up, and is of a very gratifying nature.

Licence. Mr. J. M'Kee.

On the 9th October Mr. John M'Kee was licensed to preach the Gospel.

Call from Penpont.

The Clerk recently received a communication from the Clerk of the united Presbyteries of Edinburgh and Glasgow, informing us that a unanimous call had been addressed by the congregation of Penpont to Mr. John M'Kee, Licentiate under our care, and that this call has been duly sustained ; and asking, that we would sanction the presentation of this call to Mr. M'Kee, at their next meeting, on 2nd July next. The deputation from the Scottish Synod to our Synod, being present, addressed the court on the subject. It was decided that, although the proper order in such a case is to have the call transmitted to our Presbytery for presentation, yet, in the circumstances of the present case, we unanimously grant the sanction that has been sought, and Mr. M'Kee is permitted to go to Scotland to receive the call.

Temperance.

Presbytery, in accordance with the resolutions of last Synod, urged ministers to deliver discourses on temperance, and to use their utmost endeavours to lead elders and the people generally not only to abstain from intoxicants, but to exert themselves also by every Scriptural means competent to them to advance the Temperance Reformation ; and, on inquiry, it was found that special attention had been given to this matter throughout the Presbytery's bounds.

Student.

The only student under Presbytery's care is Mr. William John Maxwell. He has taken his degree of M.A., and will be taken on trial for licence.

THOMAS DICK, Moderator.
WILLIAM RUSSELL, Clerk.

IV.—WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

Report of W. Presbytery

The Western Presbytery report that they have held four meetings since last meeting of Synod.

State of Religion.

The state of religion within Presbytery's bounds, as indicated by the attention given to religious ordinances by the people, continues to be encouraging.

Call from Mulvin.

On the 23d of January a unanimous call was issued at Mulvin for Mr. William Dick, A.M., Licentiate. This was presented to Mr. Dick at the May meeting of Presbytery, and declined.

Christian Liberality.

Arrangements were made by the Presbytery, and carried out, for having an exchange of pulpits on the day of annual Thanksgiving, in order to bring the more freely before the several congregations the subject of Christian Liberality. Presbytery respectfully submit that, at the present time, there is need for the supreme court of the Church taking some action in regard to increased liberality in the matter of ministerial support. The cost of the means of living has increased of late so much that the existing incomes of ministers, small and inadequate as these have been at the best, are rendered still more inadequate. This is not understood by many members of the Church, nor the hardship it entails considered as it should be.

C. K. TOLAND, MODERATOR.
R, NEVIN, CLERK.

V.—PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK & NOVA SCOTIA.

Report of N.B. and N.S. Presbytery.

The Reformed Presbytery of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia report that, since last meeting of Synod, we have held two meetings—one in the city of St. John, the other in Lower Horton, N.S. The business transacted on both occasions was principally routine. Entire harmony in feeling and judgment characterised all our deliberations.

While it affords us pleasure to meet in the courts of God's house, and to co-operate in devising measures for the advancement of His testimony, yet, owing to the extent of our bounds, and for other reasons with which it is not necessary to burden your records, ruling elders, and not unfrequently ministerial members, find it difficult, if not impossible, to attend our half-yearly gatherings with that regularity which would be desirable

Call from Cincinnati.

At last meeting of Presbytery a call from the Reformed Presbyterian Congregation of Cincinnati, U.S., was presented to Rev. Robert Sommerville, and was by him declined.

State of Religion.

We have under our jurisdiction five congregations and several missionary stations, with an aggregate membership of nearly three hundred. These missionary stations, with the blessing of Heaven upon well directed effort, promise to become flourishing congregations. The brethren at Littleton, Maine, which has hitherto been supplied only four Sabbaths in the year, are particularly anxious for more preaching than we can furnish. "The harvest, truly, is plenteous."

The numerical condition of our several congregations is much the same as at last report. In a majority of them there have been accessions to the membership of the Church. The people generally have been attentive in the observance

State of Religion.

of the external ordinances of religion. The Lord's Supper has been administered twice in all the congregations, and the days of Humiliation and Fasting have been observed in West Cornwallis. From St. John and Wilmot, there has been no report.

Some of our most devoted members have been removed by death during the past Winter. We have our trials; we have our vicissitudes; we have much reason to mourn our want of spirituai vitality. At the same time we are not left entirely without evidence that the ministry of the Word is not altogether fruitless. The Master is in our midst.

WM. SOMMERVILLE, MODERATOR *pro tem.*
J. R. LAWSON, CLERK.

Horton, April 21, 1873.

Mr. W. Scott.

XXXVI. It was remitted to the Committee of Superintendence of the Theological Hall to examine Mr. William Scott with a view to licence—the meeting for this purpose to be convened as early as may be found convenient.

Donations to Missionaries.

XXXVII. Similar sums as in last year were granted to the Missionaries in the Colonies, in the way of donations.

Supply of Dublin.

XXXVIII. The Committee on the supply of preaching to Dublin congregation reported, that they recommended £40 to be devoted to this purpose, from the funds of the Irish Mission, for one year; and that the several Presbyteries should supply Dublin in the following order—July, *Eastern;* August, *Northern;* September, *Western;* October and November, *Southern.*

The Report was adopted.

The Ministers supplying Dublin are further required to visit the families connected with the congregation—to inquire diligently concerning the opening for, and the prospects of, an Irish Mission there—and to send, on their return, a written Report to Mr. Russell.

Serving on Juries.

XXXIX. The Committee on Serving on Juries had given some attention to the subject, but had not a Report which they could submit, as that of the Committee.

The Committee was continued, with instructions to endeavour to have a Report to present next year.

Duties of Presbyteries.

XL. Mr. Clugston submitted the following Resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:—

"1. Synod expresses its desire, and recommends, that the Presbyteries of the Church hold special meetings from time to time, or appoint a portion of the time of their regular meetings, for devotional exercises, and for conversations on matters affecting the interests of religion within their bounds and the cause of truth in the community around.

"2. That they hold Presbyterial visitations of the congregations more frequently.

"3. That Presbyteries exercise more closely their care over their vacancies and preaching stations, by giving them, if possible, more regularly the dispensation of public ordinances, and by pastoral visitation."

XLI. The Report of the Irish Mission was read by the Secretary. Its adoption was moved by the Rev. R. Allen, seconded by the Rev. T. Dick, and passed, *nem. diss.* The Report follows:—

Report of Irish Mission.

REPORT OF IRISH MISSION.

The people connected with this department of the Church in Dublin continue to manifest the same intelligent and warm attachment to our principles that has characterized them for half a century, and under manifold discouragements has retained them in our connexion, their activity unabated, and their liberality still creditable to them.

They earnestly desire a pastor in their present circumstances, and think the reasonable expectation of such settlement at no very remote period as necessary for the continued existence of the congregation.

The work of the Irish Mission has been in abeyance during the past year, as it was considered inexpedient to enter on that work till a minister should be settled in Dublin, who, in addition to his pastoral labours in the congregation, would do some Mission work, and also superintend and direct the labours of a Mission agent, who would be associated with him in the latter department of his labours.

The Secretaries of the Home and Irish Mission are still willing to co-operate in view of effecting a settlement in Dublin.

Waiting on the Lord, may His people's strength and devotedness be increased!

Scale of Preachers' Appointments.

XLII. The following Scale of Appointments for Preachers was made out:—

	July.	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Mr. W. Dick.....	N.	N.	S.	E.	E.	N.
Mr. M'Knight.....	E.	N.	W.	W.	N.	W.
Mr. Warwick.....	W.	W.	E.	S.	W.	S.
Mr. M'Kee.....	E.	E.	N.	N.	S.	E.

XLIII. The Report on the Theological Hall was read. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Chancellor, seconded by Mr. T. Dick, and passed, *nem. diss.* The Report follows:— **Report on Theol. Hall.**

REPORT ON THE THEOLOGICAL HALL, SESSION XIX., 1872—73.

The Committee of Superintendence of the Theological Hall report, that the Nineteenth Session was opened on Tuesday, 12th November, 1872. Five Students were enrolled—one of the 4th year; one of the 3rd; one of the 2nd; and two of the 1st. The Committee examined the young men on the subjects prescribed for intersessional study, and the answering was satisfactory. Some counsels were addressed to the Students by members of the Committee. In the evening Professor Dick delivered the opening public lecture, on the Massacre of St. Bartholomew. **Opening.**

BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

Lectures and Examinations

I. ORIGINAL LANGUAGES OF THE SCRIPTURES, AND EXEGESIS. *Hebrew.*—Psalms xxiii., xlviii.; Isaiah lx.—lxvi.; with referenees to the lxx. and Vulgate, and exercises on Hebrew Grammar, giving attention to the accents.

Greek Testament. Eleven Lectures on 1 Timothy, iii. to the end, and 2 Timothy. *One Lecture* on the Peculiar Characteristics of the Gospel of John, designed to meet sceptical criticism. Instructions on Pastoral Theology, Church Government, and Ministerial Life, were given at some length in these Lectures. *Two* occasional Lectures were given, besides, on Pastoral Theology—on Devotion to the Ministry, with the Necessary Qualifications—and on Public Prayer.

II. APOLOGETICS. *Twelve Lectures* on the Life and Ministry of Christ on earth—and a concluding *Lecture* on Rationalistic Criticism driven from its strong Positions, and forced to confirm the Faith in the Gospels.

III. ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY. *Examinations*, in Mosheim, on the First Five Centuries. *Thirteen Lectures*, on the Principal Subjects, Events, and Persons in the History of the Church during the first Five Centuries. These included—A General View of the Christian Church in the First and Second Centuries—the Canon of the New Testament—Apostles Creed, &c.—Apostolic and Latin Fathers—Gnosticism—Persecutions of the Primitive Church—Origen, and Origenistic Controversies—Rise and Progress of Prelacy—Constantine and his Establishment—Arianism, and Council of Nice—Christological Controversies—Anthropological Controversy—Pelagianism—Augustine, his Character, Work, and Influence.

Lectures and Examinations

Two Lectures on The Scottish Reformation—From 1567 to the Opening of the Second Reformation.

IV. SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY.—*Eleven Expository Lectures,* on certain portions of the Acts of the Apostles.

Twenty-Two Lectures, on the Kingly Office of Christ—General Observations—His Headship over the Church visible and invisible—His Headship over the Kings and Kingdoms of the earth—its Connection with His office as King of Zion—Beneficial Influence upon the Nations of the Special Kingdom of Christ—Obligations upon the Nations in consequence of His Headship—Practical Bearings of the doctrine—His Headship over Angels, and all the inferior parts of creation—His Kingdom of Glory till the end of time—His Kingdom of Grace in its glorious form during the Millenium—His Administration at the Day of Judgment—Everlasting Duration of His Mediatorial Kingdom.

Twelve Lectures, on the Holy Spirit—His Distinct Personality—His true and proper Divinity, and Procession from the Father and the Son—His common and ordinary Operations—His Operations on Jesus Christ, the Head of the spiritual creation—the Application of Redemption to the Elect, &c.

Examinations, on Turretin, Butler's Analogy, and Edwards on the Religious Affections.

Close of Session.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

The Session was brought to a close on Tuesday, the 11th of March. The report of the Professors respecting the conduct and diligence of the Students was of the most favourable kind. The young men were examined on the subjects of study, and three of them read specimens of their composition. The Committee were well pleased.

In the evening Professor Dick delivered the closing public Lecture on "The Testimony of the Witnesses of Jesus throughout the Middle Ages against the Despotism and Corruptions of the Church of Rome."

Candidates for Licence.

CANDIDATES FOR LICENCE.

A special meeting of the Committee of Superintendence was held in Belfast on Tuesday, the 8th of October, for the general examination of Mr. John M'Kee, in accordance with remit of Synod. Mr. M'Kee was examined on his whole course of study; the examination was sustained; and he was recommended to his Presbytery to be taken under trials for licence.

At the close of the Session of the Hall, the Committee saw reason to recommend Mr. John Lynd and Mr. W. J.

Maxwell also to their respective Presbyteries, to be taken under trials for licence.

INTERSESSIONAL STUDIES FROM MARCH TO NOVEMBER, 1873.

Subjects for Study in 1873

COMMENCEMENT EXAMINATIONS.—All the Students who attend the Hall during the Session, 1873-4, will, at the entrance, be examined on the following subjects:—

The Scriptures.—the Minor Prophets, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakuk—marking with care the Chronology and Topography, the subjects of the separate prophecies, characteristics, past fulfilment, and references to New Testament times.

Westminster Confession.—Chapters xxii.—xxv., inclusive.

Historical Testimony.—Periods III. and IV.

Ecclesiastical History.—The Apostolic Times, and History of the Christian Church till the end of the Second Century.

Hebrew and Greek Testament.—Students of the First Year will be examined on "Tregelles' Heads of Hebrew Grammar." Students of the Second Year on the First Three Psalms. Students of the Third Year on Exodus xxviii. and xxix. in Hebrew and the Septuagint—showing the moral and typical import of the Garments and Consecration of the ancient Priesthood. All the Students will be examined on the Epistle to the Philippians in Greek. There will also be an examination in the department of Systematic Theology, upon Edwards on the "Religious Affections"—the last six signs of truly religious affections—and upon the First Part of "Butler's Analogy of Natural and Revealed Religion."

Students are specially enjoined by the Committee of Superintendence to have the Discourses and Class Exercises prescribed by the Professors in readiness at the opening of the Session.

FUNDS.

Funds.

It is of vital importance to any Church that the seminary in which her candidates for the ministry receive their Theological training should be well sustained. All the members of the Church should take a prayerful interest in it, and manifest the strength of their interest by a liberal pecuniary support. It is to be feared that, if the interest taken in our Theological Seminary were to be measured by this standard—and perhaps it is as fair a standard as any other—some of our congregations would be found greatly deficient. Last year a supplemental collection had to be taken up, the ordinary collection not meeting the expenditure. Notwithstanding this, the account for the present year will show that the contributions again fall short by a small amount of what has

been expended. The cost of our Hall is but small. The Committee of Superintendence would respectfully submit, that ministers should take all proper means to induce their people to exhibit greater liberality in contributing to the support of our Theological Hall.

Com. of Sup. The Committee of Superintendence was appointed, consisting of the same members as last year.

Time to Open and Close. The second Tuesday of November was appointed for the opening of the Hall; and the second Tuesday of March, 1874, for the close, as heretofore.

The Clerk was authorized to take the amount by which the contributions to the Hall fall short of the expenditure, during the past year, out of the Publication Fund.

Report on Pres. Records XLIV. The following Report on Records of Presbyteries was presented:—

"The Committee for inspecting Presbyterial Records report, that they have examined the Minute Books of the different Presbyteries, and have found them in all respects correct.

"THOMAS HOUSTON, *Convener.*"

Theological Library. XLV. The Treasurer of Synod was empowered to pay, for the present year, to the Theological Library, out of the Education Fund, whatever amount may be ordered by the Commission.

Commission. XLVI. The Commission of Synod was appointed, consisting of the following members:—The Moderator of Synod, Dr. Dick, Dr. Houston, Revs. J. Brown, W. S. Ferguson, A. M. S. Lyons, J. A. Chancellor, W. Russell, C. K. Toland, R. Nevin (*Clerk*), Messrs. S. Clugston, W. J. Galway, James Reynolds, Thomas Henry.

For. Corresp. XLVII. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence reported, that a letter had been sent to the Synod in the United States of America, after it had been approved by the Commission, but as yet no reply had been received. The Clerk was instructed, should a reply come in time, to have both printed with the Minutes.

Paper on Signs of the Times to be prepared. XLVIII. On the motion of Mr. Chancellor, the following resolution was unanimously agreed to:—

"That the Commission be instructed to lay before Synod hereafter, at its annual meetings, a REPORT ON THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES, calling attention to such public events and movements as affect the position and prospects of the Kingdom of Christ in the world, and pointing out the manner in which the witnesses of Jesus may best discharge their duty thereanent: also noticing the more prominent indications of the state of religion and morals within our own Church and throughout the community, with such suggestions or proposals as the occasion may seem to require. And that the Rev. C. K. Toland be requested to prepare this Report for our next meeting of Synod."

XLIX. On the motion of Mr. Clugston, it was resolved— "That the cordial thanks of Synod are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Committee and members of the Belfast congregation, who have, for so many years, made such ample arrangements for the comfort and entertainment of the members of Synod." **Vote of Thanks.**

At half-past three p.m. Synod stood finally adjourned, with prayer by the Moderator, till the third Monday of June, 1874. **Final Adjournment.**

ATTESTED BY

ROBERT NEVIN,

Synod Clerk.

APPENDIX.

Synodical Officers.

SYNODICAL OFFICERS, COMITTEES, &c.

Moderator.

Rev. JOHN W. MACKEOWN, Convoy.

Clerk.

Rev. ROBERT NEVIN, Londonderry.

Professors.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY—Rev. James Dick, D.D., Ballymena.
ECCLES. HIST., PAST THEOL., AND CRITICISM—
Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.

Trustees of Synod's Funds.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.*	Mr. James Meharg.
Dr. Hurst.	Mr. Samuel Clugston.

General Treasurer.

Mr. Samuel Clugston, Antrim.

Auditors.

Mr. Samuel Aikin.	Mr. James Reynolds.

Administrators of Education Fund.

Dr. Houston, *Convener*	Rev. W. Toland.
Rev. A. Savage.	Rev. R. Nevin.

Secretaries of the Schemes of the Church.

HOME MISSION—Rev. J. A. Chancellor, Belfast.
COLONIAL MISSION—Rev. James Brown, Ballymoney.
IRISH MISSION—Rev. William Russell, Ballyclare.
FOREIGN AND JEWISH MISSION—Rev. Thomas Houston, D.D., Knockbracken, Belfast.
THEOLOGICAL HALL—Rev. R. Nevin, Londonderry.
N.B.—These Secretaries (except Dr. Houston) act also as Treasurers for their respective schemes.

Commission.

The Commission of Synod.

The Moderator.	Rev. W. Russell.
Rev. J. Dick, D.D.	,, C. K. Toland.
,, J. Brown.	,, R. Nevin, *Clerk.*
,, W. S. Ferguson.	Mr. S. Clugston.
,, A. M. S. Lyons.	,, W. J. Galway.
,, T. Houston, D.D.	,, James Reynolds.
,, J. A. Chancellor.	,, Thomas Henry.

Temperance Association.

TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

President—Rev. J. Dick, D.D. | Secretary—Rev. J. A. Chancellor.

Committees.

COMMITTEE OF SUPERINTENDENCE OF THEOLOGICAL HALL.

The Moderator.	Rev. J. A. Chancellor.
Rev. W. Russell.	,, W. Toland.
,, Thomas Dick.	,, G. Douglas.
,, James Brown.	,, R. Nevin, *Convener.*

COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.
The Moderator and Clerk of Synod.

Committees.

COMMITTEE ON CAUSES OF THANKSGIVING AND FASTING.

Rev. W. Russell, *Convener* | Rev. T. Dick.

DEPUTATION TO THE SCOTTISH SYNOD.

Dr. Houston. | Rev. A. M. S. Lyons.

Mr. W. J. Galway.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSION.

The Moderator. | Rev. J. Brown.
Rev. Prof. Dick. | ,, G. Douglas.
,, W. Russell. | ,, R. Nevin.
,, J. A. Chancellor. | ,, Dr. Houston, *Convener.*

COMMITTEE ON THE TESTIMONY.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.* | Rev. Dr. Houston.
Rev. Dr. Dick. | ,, R. Nevin.

COMMITTEE ON SERVING ON JURIES.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.* | Rev. R. Nevin.
,, W. Russell. | Mr. J. Reynolds.
,, J. Dick, D.D. | Mr. S. Clugston.
,, J. W. Mackeown. |

COMMITTEE ON AGED MINISTERS' AND WIDOWS' FUND.

Dr. Dick, *Convener.* | Rev. J. A. Chancellor.
Rev. C. K. Toland. | Mr. Thomas Galway.

Mr. William Reid.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, *Convener.* | Mr. J. Reynolds.
,, Dr. Dick. | " T. Henry.
,, J. Brown. | " W. O'Neill.
,, C. K. Toland. | " W. Reid.
Mr. S. Clugston. | " J. M'Donald.

COMMITTEE ON MISSIONARIES FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

Rev. J. Brown, *Convener.* | Rev. Dr. Houston.
,, J. A. Chancellor. | ,, W. Russell.

COMMITTEE ON CODE OF DISCIPLINE.

The Moderator and Clerk of Synod, with Dr. Dick.

SYNODICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Synodical Appointments

COLLECTION for Home Mission, ... 1st Sabbath, October.
,, ,, For. and Jewish, ... 1st Sabbath December.
,, ,, Hall and Synod Fund, ... 1st Sabbath, February.
,, ,, Colonial Mission, ... 1st Sabbath, April.
,, ,, Irish Mission, ... 1st Sabbath, June.

The Theological Hall opens in Belfast on Tuesday, 11th Nov., 1873.
Closes Tuesday, 10th March, 1874.

The Commission meets in Belfast on Wednesday, 12th Nov., 1873; and Wednesday, 11th March, 1874.

Day of Public Thanksgiving, Thursday, 27th November, 1873.

Day of Public Fasting, Thursday, 29th January, 1874.

Annual Meeting of Synod, in Londonderry, Monday, 15th June, 1874, at 7 o'clock, p.m.

MEETING OF PRESBYTERIES.

Times of Presbyteries Meeting.

NORTHERN—As occasion requires.

SOUTHERN—First *Tuesday* in February, May, August, and November.

EASTERN—First *Wednesday* in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

WESTERN—First *Wednesday* in February, May, August, and November.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA—As occasion requires.

Statistical and Financial Statement of Ministerial Support and Home Mission Scheme.

	Congregations.	Ministers.	Members.	Stipend.	Manse or Travelling Expenses.	Collected, 1873.	Collected, 1872.	Total, 1873	Total, 1872	Supplement. 1873.	Supplement. 1872.
SELF-SUPPORTING.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	Bailliesmill	T. Dick	140	100 0 0	....	5 0 0	7 0 0	105 0 0	107 0 0	....	....
	Ballenon	A. Savage	255	75 0 0	....	2 2 0	3 3 6	77 2 0	78 3 6	....	....
	Ballyclabber	J. D. Houston	160	80 0 0	Manse.	3 5 5	3 6 9½	83 5 5	83 6 9½	....	....
	Ballylaggan	J. Hart	230	100 0 0	....	5 0 0	5 6 6	105 0 0	105 6 6	....	....
	Belfast	J. A. Chancellor	300	260 0 0	5 0 0	45 0 0	42 6 0	310 0 0	297 6 0	....	....
	Bready	C. K. Toland	210	120 0 0	4 0 0	5 2 2	4 3 9	129 2 2	128 3 9	....	....
	Convoy	J. W. Mackeown	170	100 0 0	3 0 0	1 0 0	1 10 0	104 0 0	104 10 0	....	....
	Creivagh	G. Douglas	180	100 0 0	....	9 7 0	6 14 0	109 7 0	106 14 0	....	....
	Dervock and Ballymoney	J. Brown	340	110 0 0	....	5 5 0	5 3 0	115 5 0	115 3 0	....	....
	Drimbolg	I. Thompson	230	110 0 0	....	5 7 0	4 2 0	115 7 0	114 2 0	....	....
	Faughan	J. P. Sweeney	195	70 0 0	....	5 15 10	3 18 7	75 15 10	73 18 7	....	....
	Kellswater	J. Dick	235	100 0 0	....	12 0 0	12 0 0	112 0 0	112 0 0	....	....
	Killinchy	.....	36	45 0 0	....	2 0 0	2 3 6½	47 0 0	47 3 6½	....	....
	Kilraughts	W. Toland	160	100 0 0	....	5 5 6	5 4 0	105 5 6	105 4 0	....	....
	Knockbracken	T. Houston	230	100 0 0	Manse.	6 10 0	8 0 0	106 10 0	118 0 0	....	....
	Londonderry	R. Nevin	100	140 0 0	Manse.	8 0 0	7 0 0	148 0 0	147 0 0	....	....
	Loughbrickland	J. F. Hurst	115	100 0 0	....	2 8 0	2 6 4	102 8 0	102 6 4	....	....
	Newry	A. M. S. Lyons	103	100 0 0	....	2 10 4	2 10 0	102 10 4	102 10 0	....	....
	Newtownlimavady	T. Cleland	249	140 0 0	....	4 2 0	4 11 0	144 2 0	144 11 0	....	....
	Rathfriland	T. Hart	240	80 0 0	....	4 0 0	4 14 9	84 0 0	84 14 9	....	....
AID-RECEIVING.	Ballyclare	W. Russell	85	50 0 0	....	10 0 0	10 0 0	60 0 0	60 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Ballylane	H. M'Fadden	112	50 0 0	....	3 7 7	2 10 0	53 7 7	52 10 0	20 0 0	20 0 0
	Cloughmills	.....	12	7 0 0	....	1 0 0	2 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Donegal	.....	13	12 0 0	....	3 10 0	3 10 0	15 10 0	15 10 0	6 5 0	3 0 0
	Dromore	.....	28	15 0 0	....	1 1 0	1 4 6	16 1 0	16 4 6	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Dublin	.....	18	40 0 0	....	0 14 7	1 0 0	40 14 7	22 0 0	12 0 0	12 0 0
	Fairview	G. Lillie	45	50 0 0	....	3 6 0	2 15 2	53 6 0	52 15 2	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Garvagh	J. Hamilton	100	70 0 0	....	3 0 0	3 0 0	73 0 0	53 0 0	3 2 6	25 0 0
	Grange	W. S. Ferguson	60	40 0 0	....	3 8 6	4 0 0	43 8 6	44 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Larne	J. R. Moody	20	40 0 0	.....	1 8 0	1 4 0	41 8 0	41 4 0	37 1 8	16 13 4
	Lisdonnan	.....	9	6 0 0	....	0 9 6	0 10 0	6 9 6	6 10 0	6 0 0	6 0 0
	Liverpool	.....	23	75 0 0	....	2 0 0	2 10 0	77 0 0	82 10 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Magherafelt	.....	30	10 10 0	....	2 0 0	2 7 0	12 10 0	12 17 0	10 0 0	10 0 0
	Mulvin	.....	38	60 0 0	....	4 14 0	3 11 0	64 14 0	63 11 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
	Newtownards	R. Allen	67	70 0 0	Manse.	8 8 4	2 4 3	78 8 4	72 4 3	20 0 0	....
	Ringrash	T. Boyd	63	50 0 0	....	1 15 7	1 5 5	51 15 7	18 5 5	15 0 0	....
	Stranorlar	R. M'Farlane	70	60 0 0	....	3 0 0	3 0 0	63 0 0	53 0 0	44 3 8	29 3 0

Home Mission Account for year ending 30th June, 1873.

Dr.				Cr.			
To Balance, 1st July, 1872	£93	4	6	By Ballyclare	£25	0	0
" Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation	20	0	0	" Ballylane	20	0	0
" Annuity bequeathed by Mr. Joseph Clarke	2	0	0	" Cloughmills	5	0	0
" Interest on U. S. Bond	6	0	10	" Donegal	6	5	0
" Ballieswills	5	0	0	" Dromore	5	0	0
" Ballenon	2	2	0	" Dublin	12	0	0
" Ballyclabber	3	5	5	" Fairview	25	0	0
" Ballyclare	10	0	0	" Garvagh	3	2	6
" Ballyclaggan	5	0	0	" Grange	25	0	0
" Ballylane	8	7	7	" Larne	37	1	8
" Belfast	7	4	6	" Lisdonnan	6	0	0
" " Juvenile Missionary Society	37	15	6	" Liverpool	25	0	0
" Bready	5	2	2	" Magherafelt	10	0	0
" Cloughmills	1	0	0	" Mulvin	5	0	0
" Convoy	1	0	0	" Newtownards	20	0	0
" Cornwallis, N.S.	1	14	4	" Ringrash	15	0	0
" Creivagh	4	7	0	" Stranorlar	44	3	8
" " Thank-offering from Mr. Thomas Henry	5	0	0	" Printing Report	2	0	0
" Drimbolg	5	7	0	" Clerk of Commission	1	0	0
" Dervock and Ballymoney	5	0	0	" Travelling and Secretary's Expenses	3	14	5
" " Mrs. Patton	0	5	0	" Balance on hand, 1st July, 1873	29	5	9
" Donegal	3	10	0				
" Dromore	1	1	0				
" " Legacy of Miss Archer	2	10	0				
" Dublin	0	14	7				
" Fairview	3	6	0				
" Faughan	5	15	10				
" Garvagh	3	0	0				
" Grange	3	8	6				
" Keilswater	11	0	0				
" " Antrim Society Box	0	10	0				
" " Ballymena do.	0	10	0				
" " Bequest of late Henry Milligan	2	0	0				
" Kilraughts	5	5	6				
" Knockoracken	6	10	0				
" Killinchy	2	0	0				
" Larne	1	8	0				
" Lisdonnan	0	8	6				
" Loughbrickland	2	6	0				
" Liverpool	2	0	0				
" Londonderry	8	0	0				
" Magherafelt	2	0	0				
" Mulvin	1	6	0				
" " Missionary Box	0	14	0				
" " Aldobill Society	0	14	0				
" " Miss Adams's Donation	2	0	0				
" Newry	2	10	4				
" Newtownards	1	13	8				
" " Juvenile Missionary Society	6	14	8				
" Newtownlimavady	4	2	0				
" Rathfriland	4	0	0				
" Ringrash	1	15	7				
" Stranorlar	3	0	0				
" Barnesville (N.P.) Juvenile Missionary Society	2	10	0				
" Dr. Martin, Latakia	2	10	0				
	£324	13	0		£324	13	0

Colonial Mission Account for the Year ending June 30, 1873.

Dr.				Cr.			
To Bal. as per last report	£20	11	5½	By Rev. A. M. Moore's Life Policy	£6	2	6
Collections for 1873.				" Proportion of travelling Expenses of Commission —November and March —together with Printing Reports in August *Covenanter*	4	14	5
" Bailliesmill	1	15	0	" Periodicals, with cost of transmission, 1871-72	3	7	4
" Belfast	6	0	0	" Commission, Circulars, Postage, &c.	1	10	0
" Ballylaggan (including £1 from Mr. Neil Blair)	4	7	6	" Rev. Wm. Sommerville	10	0	0
" Ballymoney and Dervock	6	0	0	" Rev. A. M'L. Stavely	10	0	0
" Barnesville, N.B.	2	10	0	" Rev. J. R. Lawson	30	0	0
" Ballenon	2	0	0	" Rev. R. Stewart	30	0	0
" Ballyclare	2	15	0	" Rev. A. M. Moore	20	0	0
" Ballylane	1	12	0	" Rev. Wm. Sommerville	10	0	0
" Bready	3	0	1	" Rev. A. M'L. Stavely	10	0	0
" Coleraine	2	15	6	" Rev. Robt. Stewart	10	0	0
" Creevagh	3	8	0	" Rev. J. R. Lawson	10	0	0
" Cloughmills	0	15	6	" Clerk of Commission	1	0	0
" Cornwallis, N.S.	2	13	9	" Balance on hand, 1st July, 1873	15	7	11½
" Convoy	1	10	0				
" Drimbolg	2	7	6				
" Dromore	0	18	0				
" Donegal	2	0	0				
" Dublin	0	17	0				
" Fairview	1	0	6				
" Faughan	3	1	3				
" Garvagh	1	10	0				
" Grange	0	15	2				
" Kellswater	8	0	0				
" Killinchy	1	0	0				
" Kilraughts	5	10	2				
" Knockbracken	7	10	0				
" Larne	0	18	0				
" Lisdonnan	..	..					
" Londonderry	10	0	0				
" Loughbrickland	2	5	2				
" Mulvin	1	6	0				
" Magherafelt	..	..					
" Newry	1	11	6				
" Newtownards	1	10	0				
" Newtownlimavady	2	17	0				
" Rathfriland	4	5	0				
" Ringrash	1	6	2				
" Stranorlar	2	0	0				
" St. John, N.B.	3	0	0				
" Horton, N.S.	..	..					
" Wilmot, N.S.	..	..					
" Mr. James Glenn	1	0	0				
" Mr. H. Milligan's Bequest	1	0	0				
" Interest on Mr. Henry's donation	20	0	0				
" Miss Archer's Bequest	2	10	0				
" Dr. Martin, Latakia	1	10	0				
" Belfast Missionary Association	19	0	0				
	£172	2	2½		£173	2	2½

FOREIGN AND JEWISH MISSION.

Dr. *Treasurer's Account for year ending at Synod of 1873.* *Cr.*

Balance at Synod of 1872, received from former Treasurer	£99	16	0
Balance at Synod of 1872 from Outfit Fund	35	0	0
Balance at Synod of 1872, Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation	15	0	0
Proportion of current year's Interest on Mr. Henry's Donation	20	0	0
Proportion of current year's Salary to Dr. Martin, received from Treasurer of Scotch Synod	45	0	0
COLLECTION FROM			
Baillieswills	1	15	0
Ballylaggan	4	6	0
Ballylane	2	10	3
Ballymoney and Dervock	5	10	0
Ballyclare	2	17	0
Ballenon	2	0	0
Barnesville, N.B.	2	10	0
Ballyclabber	3	8	2
Belfast	15	0	0
Bready	3	6	0
Broadlane	3	2	0
Creevagh	4	0	0
Convoy	1	10	0
Cloughmills	0	13	0
Drimbolg	2	18	0
Dromore	0	18	6
Donegal—Fellowship-Meeting	2	0	0
Dublin	0	12	6
Grange	0	16	0
Fairview	1	10	0
Kellswater	9	10	0
Killinchy	1	10	0
Kilraughts	4	1	2
Knockbracken	8	0	0
Larne	0	16	1
Loughbrickland	2	1	1
Londonderry	9	0	0
Newtownards	2	6	9
Rathfriland	3	10	2
Stranorlar	1	8	0
St. John, N.B.	3	5	0
DONATION OF			
Mrs. Hurst, Manchester,	5	0	0
"A Lover of Zion"	1	0	0
Mr. Musgrave, Knockbracken	5	0	0
Robt. Henderson, Esq., Belfast	1	0	0
Esther Dempster, Knockbracken	0	5	0
Eliza M. M'Bratney Knockbracken	0	5	0
Mr. Jas. M'Williams, Ballyclabber	0	5	0
Mr. Neil Blair, Ballylaggan	1	0	0
A Female Member, Kilraughts	3	0	0
A Member of Connor Society, Kellswater	0	10	0
Box in Antrim Society, Kellswater	0	10	0
Box of the Misses Stevenson, Derry	1	0	0
Mr. Robt. M'Gladdery, Newry	1	0	0
Miss Gibson, Belfast	0	2	6
The late John Morton, Belfast	0	5	0
BEQUEST OF			
The late Mr. Joseph Clarke, Waterside	3	0	0
Miss Archer, Dromore	2	10	0
Mr. Henry Milligan, Kellswater	1	0	0
	£347	10	2

Paid Dr. Martin's Salary up to 1st July, 1873	£181	10	0
" Special Grant to Mission at Latakia	40	0	0
" Medicines, Instruments and Freight	12	8	7
" Proportion of Expenses of Commission at Nov. and March	2	14	5
" Printing Reports in Minutes	2	0	0
" Clerk of Commission	1	0	0
" Circulars, Postages, &c., of Secretary and Treasurer	0	17	6
" Balance on hands	107	8	8
	£347	10	2

Antrim, June, 1873.

SAMUEL CLUGSTON, Treasurer.

Hall and Synod Fund in Account with the Secretary, 1872-73.

Dr.	Supplemental, 1872. £ s. d.	Ordinary, 1873. £ s. d.
To Congregational Collections, viz :— ...		
" Bailliesmills ..	1 14 0	2 1 0
" Ballenon ..	1 10 0	2 0 0
" Ballybay ..	3 3 0	3 5 0
" Ballyclare ..	1 17 6	2 11 3
" Ballylaggan ..	2 8 0	2 16 0
" Ballylane ..	1 1 1	1 11 0
" Barnesville, N.B. ..		2 10 0
" Belfast ..	5 1 5	6 4 0
" Bready ..	2 5 1	4 6 7
" Cloughmills ..	0 15 6	
" Coleraine ...	2 17 1	2 6 0
" Convoy ...	1 0 0	1 10 0
" Cornwallis, N.S. ..		
" Dervock and Ballymoney	3 11 6	4 16 0
" Donegal ...		2 0 0
" Drimbolg ..	2 0 0	2 9 0
" Dromore ...	0 15 0	0 18 3½
" Dublin ..	0 11 0	0 12 6
" Fairview ..	1 0 2	1 2 9
" Faughan ..	3 0 0	3 7 2
" Garvagh ...	1 5 0	1 0 0
" Grange ..	1 0 0	0 16 5
" Horton, N.S. ..		
" Kellswater ..	4 0 0	8 0 0
" Killinchy ..	1 0 0	1 10 0
" Kilraughts ..	3 12 4	4 12 2
" Knockbracken ..	4 0 0	10 0 0
" Lurne ..	1 0 0	1 0 0
" Lisdonnan ..	0 8 0	0 7 9½
" Liverpool ..		
" Londonderry ..	3 0 0	12 13 0
" Loughbrickland ..	1 14 6	2 0 0
" Magherafelt ..		0 10 0
" Mulvin ...	0 18 0	1 2 0
" Newry ..	2 0 9	2 0 0
" Newtownards ..		1 3 3
" Newtownlimavady ..		2 12 9
" Rathfriland ...	3 6 7	4 1 6
" Ringrash ..		1 16 1
" St. John, N B. ..		
" Stranorlar ..	1 1 0	1 16 0
" Wilmot, N S. ...		
To Proportion of Supplemental Collection, by order of Commission ...		7 5 3½
To Bequest of the late Mr. Joseph Clarke ..		1 0 0
To Donation, Mr Andrew Lynd, Ballylaggan ..		1 0 0
To Interest on Mr. Morrow's Legacy ...		2 5 0
To Donation, Dr. Martin, Latakia ..		3 0 0
To Proportion, Miss Archer's Legacy ..		2 10 0
To Balance due Secretary..		2 0 10
	£62 16 0	1.1 8 7½

Cr.	£ s. d.
By Balance from last year's Account ...	£7 5 3½
" Professor's Salaries ...	95 0 0
" Proportion Travelling Expenses, Commission and Hall Committee ..	2 14 5
" Circulars, Postages, &c. ..	0 10 11
" Printing Report in Minutes of Synod ..	2 0 0
" Clerk of Synod ..	10 0 0
" Clerk of Commission ..	1 0 0
" Travelling Expenses of Deputation to Scotland ..	2 18 0
	£121 8 7½

Examined and found correct,

H. CHEYNE.
ROBERT KERR.

Irish Mission Account for the Year ending 30th June, 1873.

Dr.				Cr.			
To Balance of last year's Account	£139	2	1	By Cash for Printing Reports	£2	0	0
" From Hall and Synod Fund—Money borrowed	20	0	0	" In aid of Dublin Congregation, &c.	6	0	0
" Cornwallis Collection	1	14	11	" Share of Travelling Expenses to the November Commission	1	10	4
" Interest	4	9	4	" Do. to March Commission	1	4	1
				" Clerk of Commission	1	0	0
				" Balance	153	11	11
	£165	6	4		£165	6	4

Account of Publication Fund.

Dr.

To Balance at last statement	£17	17	4½	
" Proportion of Special Collection	35	6	2½	
" Received for Publications	4	14	5	—£57 18 0

Cr.

By Causes of Thanksgiving—Printing and Postage	0	4	10	
" Printing 2,000 "Voice, &c."	16	10	6	
" Carriage parcels	0	0	7½	—£16 15 11½
To Balance to new Account				£41 2 0½

16th July, 1873 R. NEVIN.

Account of Special Collection.

Dr.

To Total of Congregational Collections	£62 16 6

Cr.

By Circulars, Postages, &c.	£0	5	0	—
" Paid Dr. Dick, by order of Commission	10	0	0	
" Do. Dr. Houston, do.	10	0	0	
" Do. Hall and Synod Fund, as ordered	7	5	3½	
" Transferred to Publication Fund Account	35	6	2½	—£62 16 6

July, 1873. R. NEVIN.

General Financial Statement.

AGED MINISTERS' FUND.

Balance at Synod of 1872	...£2440	12	0	Paid grant to Rev. J. A. Smyth	... £30	0	0
Interest on Investments	.. 134	5	0	" " Rev. Saml. Simms	.. 30	0	0
				" Expenses	.. 0	4	0
				Balance at Credit of the Fund	..2514	13	0
	£2574	17	0		£2574	17	0

MR. HENRY'S DONATION.

Balance at Synod of 1872	...£1000	0	0	Paid to Home Mission	... £20	0	0
Interest on Investments	... 60	2	0	" Colonial Mission	... 20	0	0
				" Foreign & Jewish Mission	.. 20	0	0
				" Expenses	... 0	2	0
				Balance at Credit of this Fund	...1000	0	0
	£1060	2	0		£1060	2	0

BICENTENARY FUND.

Balance at Synod of 1872	...£512	3	2	Paid Expenses	.. £0	1	6
Interest on Investments	.. 29	1	6	Balance at Credit of this Fund	..541	3	2
	£541	4	8		£541	4	8

EDUCATION FUND.

Balance at Synod of 1872	..£519	13	9	Paid Grant to Theological Hall Library	..£20	0	0
Repaid by Scotch Synod, part cost of Medical Education of Foreign Missionary	.. 30	0	0	" Cost of Arranging, Printing Catalogue, and Insuring Library	... 9	0	0
Repaid by Dr. Martin, Latakia	.. 8	0	0	" Expenses	.. 0	1	6
Interest on Investments	.. 30	1	6	Balance at Credit of this Fund	..558	13	9
	£587	15	3		£587	15	3

AUSTRALIAN MISSION.

Balance at Synod of 1872	...£220	17	5	Paid Expenses	... £0	1	0
Interest on Investments	.. 11	3	7	Balance at Credit of this Fund	..232	0	0
	£232	1	0		£232	1	0

SUMMARY.

Present Balance of Aged Ministers' Fund	..£2514	13	0	Securities held by Trustees:— Bonds	..£3442	0	0
Mr. Henry's Donation	... 10 0	0	0	Mortgages	.. 1400	0	0
Bicentenary Fund	... 541	3	2	Balance in Treasurer's hands	... 4	9	11
Education Fund	.. 558	13	9				
Australian Fund	.. 232	0	0				
	£4846	9	11		£4846	9	11

Antrim, June 4, 1873. SAMUEL CLUGSTON, Treasurer.

We have examined this Financial Statement, with the Vouchers and Securities, and find all to be correct.

Belfast, 12th June, 1873. JAMES REYNOLDS. M. CHEYNE.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE AMERICAN SYNOD.

To the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States of North America :—

Dear Brethren—After the revolution of another year, we seek to hold a little converse with you across the mighty ocean. We always look forward with much pleasure to the interchange of communications by letter in the absence of what would be greatly more interesting and satisfactory, the presence of brethren, who could convey the interchange of sentiment and information by the living voice.

We have, in the first place, to express our deep sympathy with you in the removal by death, amid such mournful circumstances, of Mr. Galbraith, your missionary in Syria; a sympathy intensified by the consideration, that we have had our own long-cherished desires gratified at last, in the presence there of a representative from Ireland, to take part with yours in the prosecution of the Mission. Only girding on the harness, as it were, to enter on his work; indulging in high hopes, no doubt, that the Divine Master had much work for him to do, among a people sitting in the region and shadow of spiritual death; earnestly looking and praying for grace to qualify him for his labours, and for a blessing from on high to make them fruitful—all this, only to reach the field, survey it, and die. It seems altogether an inscrutable dispensation of providence. But God seeth not as man seeth, and it behoves us to be still, and say, The will of the Lord be done. Who can tell what good He can bring, or has already brought, out of it? Mr. Galbraith's allotted work was done, and although the contemplated labour would have been to him a labour of love, yet it pleased God who knows, in the exercise of His infinite wisdom, how to take the will for the deed, to say to our beloved brother, Well done, good and faithful servant, rest from thy labours, come up hither and receive thy reward. We mourn not for him, as we do for the early-made widow, and for the little one who never now can look upon a father's face on earth—not for him, as we do for his fellow-labourers in the mission, so soon deprived of his counsels and aid. As the remains of two dearly-beloved ministerial brethren now rest in Syrian soil, in the hope of a glorious resurrection, you may be said to have taken possession of the land. Your interest in the mission must be thereby greatly enhanced, and we are glad to see that you have not been discouraged by what has transpired according to the all-wise disposals of providence, but that you have sent forth another soldier of Jesus to fill the breach, and occupy the place of him who has so recently fallen with honour.

The movement for National Reform, in the direction of having a recognition of the Christian religion, the rights of the reigning

Mediator, and the claims of God's Word to be regarded as the supreme law by which the conduct of men in all the relations of life should be regulated, we look upon as a movement of transcendent importance. That the ministers and members of the Reformed Presbyterian Church should be found eagerly pressing on in the van of such a movement, is no more than was to be expected from the Church's historical antecedents. We cannot, however, withhold an expression of our admiration of the zeal and ability which have been exhibited by many among you on this subject; and it is not a little cheering, while somewhat wonderful, to find so many earnest men of other evangelical denominations, who differ from you and from one another on many important points, standing so loyally by you, and working with you shoulder to shoulder in this great and holy cause. On this account you may well thank God and take courage. Considering the state of public and political morality, the agitation was not commenced a day too soon. There are many adversaries, and they may become yet still more fierce and embittered. But the sure word of prophecy leaves us no room to doubt of the ultimate issue, though the day for it may yet be somewhat distant. The kingdoms of this world *shall* become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ. Meanwhile, the discussion of the subject cannot be otherwise, under the blessing of God, than productive of much good. The *Christian Statesman* is not so well known on this side of the Atlantic as it should be, but those who are acquainted with it concur in the expression of the very high estimate they have formed of the sterling ability and fidelity to principle with which it is conducted.

We are concerned to learn that you have so large a proportion of vacant congregations. Yours is still comparatively a young and growing country. The constant stream of immigration may account, at least, in part for the fact. We trust it will not long be so with you, and we earnestly pray the Lord of the harvest, that He would speedily qualify and send forth many labourers, that the vacant ground may be all worthily occupied.

We in Ireland have much reason to bless God for His goodness, in sustaining the lives of our ministers and adding to their number. At our last meeting of Synod, no less than five young ministers of talent and promise sat with us for the first time. This was a large proportion, for one year, in so small a body. At the same time, no vacancy was occasioned by the decease of any of our ministers during the year.

Our Theological Hall continues to be conducted as formerly; and, although the number of students has not been so large for the last two or three years as it had been in some former years, yet there is the prospect that there will be a sufficiency of sons of the prophets to take the place of the fathers, when these are called to rest from their labours.

With respect to public questions, it is not necessary that we should take up space. You are well acquainted, from other sources of information, with the phases which these assume with us from time to time. You and we have much the same conflict to maintain against the enemies of truth and real godliness. With you it is more intensified already, in some of its aspects. But it must be so everywhere as time rolls on, and as the latter day glory draws nigh. Satan comes forth with great wrath, when he knows that his time is short. The token is a bright one for the children of faith and hope. Wherefore should any portion of the army that follows the Lamb of God give way to trembling or dismay, even for a moment? The victory is as sure as the word of Him who cannot lie can make it. When the enemy comes in as a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

By order of the Commission of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland. JAMES DICK, *Moderator.*

Belfast, 12th March, 1873. R. NEVIN, *Clerk.*

LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN SYNOD.

To the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

DEAR BRETHREN—It has given us pleasure to hear from you, and to learn of your work and welfare during the past year. It strengthens us to know that we are not alone in the good cause, and we are stimulated to increased activity by your words of cheer sent to us at recurring intervals.

While we congratulate you that your ranks have remained unshaken, we have to mourn the decease of four of our esteemed ministers. Our present Synod has been increased by three—one by certificate from your own body, and two by ordination. We have to give God praise that the young men of the Church come forward to take the place of the fathers who have fallen asleep.

We are glad to learn that your venerable Professors in the Theological Seminary are prospered in their work, and still remain at their post of usefulness. We have learned to honor that institution, and the ability and usefulness of those whom it has sent to help us in this part of the Church. Our Seminary still enjoys the blessing of the Church's Head. The roll of last session records the names of seventeen students. The application and progress of these young men give the Church great encouragement. At the close of the session two of these were certified to their respective Presbyteries as having completed the full curriculum, and four were recommended for licensure. We are happy to say the future prospect for our Seminary is as bright as the present. The Synod has made arrangement to erect a new and commodious building for its use in Allegheny city, the place of its present location.

We have an encouraging report to present of our work of National Reform. The movement is beginning to assume gigantic proportions, and we hope to see even greater manifestations of Divine power. For it is now as it ever has been, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord." The moral decadence in our National Congress brings a tinge of shame to the faces of all honest citizens in our republic. Men everywhere confess that our laws are defective, and begin to cry for a change. We do not try to hide from ourselves that the Church of Christ will yet have a severe conflict with the world's powers, but we are hopeful. Immanuel will come before the day of trial ends, and victory will ensue. *The Christian Statesman*, the weekly organ of our movement, as formerly, is ably conducted. Its circulation is rapidly increasing. It is encouraging to read your encomium upon its merits. In addition to what is presented to the public through this journal, able tracts upon all the various phases of the question have been prepared and published. In the month of February last the usual annual National Reform Convention was held in the city of New York. The Convention was large and dignified. Appended to the call were the names of many of our leading statesmen, judges, professors, ministers, and laymen. Truly the "old blue flag" of our fathers has been taken from the antiquarian museum, and is being unfurled.

Our work in domestic missions still increases. New congregations are springing up in our new states and territories. These are made up, in part, of members of our older congregations, who move to the West for sake of the advantage which it offers. We have now, under the care of the mission, seven stations. The field is wide, and many laborers could be employed with profit. The board having charge of this mission have opened anew the Southern field, and have sent to it Mr. Lewis Johnston, the first colored licentiate ever in our denomination. We are in hopes that he will be eminently successful in his work.

Our interest in the work of Foreign Missions continues unabated. If any thing, it is increased by the presence of our beloved physician, whose acceptable lectures and addresses give us an insight into the work in Syria. Our Synod has been led, by a line of singular providences, to occupy the field among the outcast tribes of the Canaanites, and now we are beginning to reap a harvest from our toil. We clearly see that these providences were of God. We welcome your hearty co-operation in this work, and offer our prayers to God in behalf of your worthy representative.

We bow with submission to the will of God, who has called from us our beloved brother, Rev. S. R. Galbraith. We mourn his loss, yet we rejoice that death is his gain. We have to bless God, that the place made vacant by death is not left untilled. Called by the necessities of the case, the board sent forth our young brother, Rev.

Henry Easson. With his wife and child he left us last Autumn, and has already commenced his work. It is the design of our missionaries now with us to return to their labor early in the coming Fall, and it is also the purpose of the Synod to send with them an additional lady helper.

We take pleasure in bringing to your notice our Literary Institute, located in West Geneva, a village in central Ohio. It has been chartered under the name of Geneva College, and is empowered with the right to confer degrees upon all who complete its curriculum of study. During the last year it has prospered. The catalogue presented to the public enrolls the names of one hundred and twenty-four students. Some of these are prosecuting their studies with a view to the Gospel ministry. The president and faculty of the college are noted for their ability, and have won the confidence of the Church.

Upon looking over the field of our labor, we have reason to thank God and take courage. Instead of crushing, us He smiles upon our efforts. Instead of diminishing, the Church is enlarging. Instead of the door being closed against our ministry, it is opening; and the call comes to us, loud and constant, "Send us the heralds of salvation." In fine, all things are contributing to the growth and spread of our Redeemer's Kingdom in this land.

We take pleasure in tendering to all our Covenanted brethren in your land our fraternal love and salutations, and our prayers that "Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces."

JOSEPH M'CRACKEN, MODERATOR.
J. R. THOMPSON, CLERK.

WEST GENEVA, OHIO, June 10, 1873.